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THE
LOCAL HISTORIAN'S
TABLE BOOK,
OF REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES,
Historical Facts, Traditions,
LEGENDARY AND DESCRIPTIVE BALLADS,
&c., &c.,
CONNECTED WITH THE COUNTIES OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.

BY M. A. RICHARDSON,

AUTHOR OF "A DESCRIPTIVE COMPANION THROUGH NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE."

H
HISTORICAL DIVISION. VOL. II.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne:
M. A. RICHARDSON, 44, GREY STREET.

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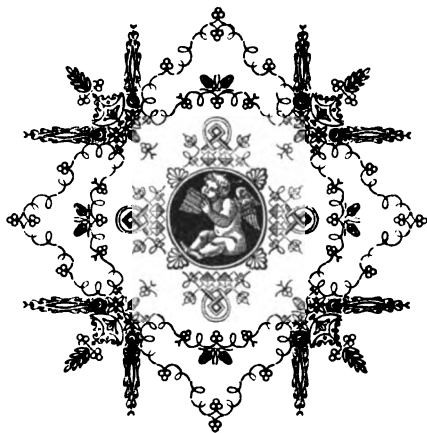
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THE LOCAL HISTORIAN'S TABLE BOOK,

&c., &c.

CHAPTER I.

A. D. 1745.



ENCOURAGED by the disastrous result of the battle of Fontenoy and other reverses of the British arms in Flanders, during the summer of 1745; by repeated invitations from the Scottish Jacobites, and by promises of assistance from the French; Charles Edward, the young Pretender, was led to believe that if he could only unfurl his banner on the hills

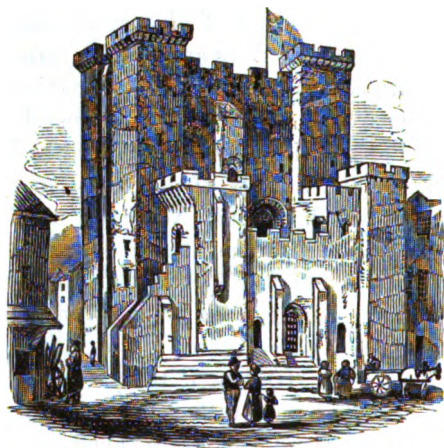
of Scotland, it would soon be carried through a distracted land, to the capital and the palace of St. James'. The Highlanders, however, had expressly told him that his coming would be useless and desperate unless he brought with him at least 6,000 disciplined troops, 10,000 stand of arms, and some money. The French ministers were quite ready to countenance his schemes, but very badly provided with cash; they wished for a diversion in Scotland, but were not disposed to make any great sacrifices for it, and indeed were averse to any open or decided proceeding. Besides, to secure the advantages they had gained, it was necessary that they should keep up their army in Flanders; and their past experience proved that the sanguine hopes

of the Jacobites were not to be relied upon so as to encourage any great adventure with or for them. Charles however was completely dazzled with the French relations of Fontenoy—an army cut in pieces, a nation in despair,—and the fast succeeding reverses of all that were in alliance with or that were likely to assist king George in his hour of need completed his enchantment. The example of his father, which ought to have deterred him, urged him on; and he wrote to his friends in Scotland to inform them that he was determined to come, though he could have neither the troops nor the arms required. As for the money, all that he could do was to borrow 180,000 livres, and to write to Rome for his jewels that he might pawn them. “For our object,” said he, “I would even pawn my shirt.” On the 2nd of July, Charles, disguised as a student of the Scotch College at Paris, embarked in the *Doutelle*, a fast-sailing brig carrying 18 guns. He left Belleisle on the 13th, and on the fourth day of his voyage, very narrowly escaped being taken by the *Lion*, an English ship of 58 guns. Two days afterwards the *Doutelle* was pursued off the south end of the Long Island by an English ship of superior force; but she was saved by her superior sailing. On the 25th of July, Charles set his foot for the first time on the main land of Scotland with a train of only seven persons, and was conducted to Borodale, a farm house belonging to Clanronald, whence he dispatched letters and messengers to nearly every mountain and glen in the Highlands. Here he remained till the middle of August. The rebel standard was first unfurled at Glenfinnin on the 19th of August, and on the 20th the Highlanders began their march southward. On the evening of Sunday, the 15th of September, the young Pretender and the whole of his army, consisting of about 2000 men, were quartered in Linlithgow, and early on the morning of the 17th, they entered the city of Edinburgh as if by magic,—the town guard and all the guards and sentinels upon duty were made prisoners without a blow, and the Highlanders occupied their posts and took possession of the city as quietly as one guard relieves another. During the progress of these events in Scotland, every possible means were being adopted in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, to oppose the progress of the rebel army. The important garrison of Berwick was put into the best posture of defence, and made a depot for arms and ammunition. The inhabitants manifested a degree of zeal, and a spirit of loyalty so distinguished in support of their king and country against the rebels, as reflects the greatest honour upon the history of that town. They formed themselves into companies, chose their own officers; and, like men linked in a common cause, much to their honour, without pay, did the duty of the garrison, and instantly threw aside

all personal or political animosities. Their number amounted to 15 companies, which were raised in one day. On the occupation of Edinburgh by the rebels, most of the gentry resident between that city and Berwick, hastened with their families to the latter place for protection. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, under the direction of a magistrate distinguished for his spirit and prudence also gave indubitable proofs of its loyalty to the house of Brunswick. The fate of Edinburgh was known in Newcastle on the 18th, and on the 19th an agreement was signed by eight hundred and thirteen persons, by which they voluntarily obliged themselves to appear in person, or to provide each an able man, to act in concert with his majesty's forces in that place for the defence thereof against all the kings' enemies. On the day following great numbers appeared in arms at the Guildhall, were formed into companies under the direction of proper officers, and mounted guard for the first time. General Cope, after his defeat at Preston Pans, retired to Berwick, where he arrived with several other officers, and a body of dragoons, on the 21st. The news of this disaster, which reached Newcastle on Sunday morning the 22nd, threw that place into the utmost consternation. Many of the most opulent inhabitants fled immediately, removing their most valuable effects into the country with the greatest precipitation. On the same day that general Cope entered Berwick, the Glasgow man-of-war arrived there with 700 Dutch troops; * and on the 24th, admiral Byng was off that port with seven ships of the line. The same day the Northumberland volunteers, numbering 400 horse and 200 foot, marched into Newcastle. In the county of Durham several troops of horse militia were raised, and were commanded by George Bowes, Nicholas Lambton, Henry Ellison, Henry Thomas Carr, Thomas Liddell, Thomas Clavering, esqs., and the Hon.—Vane. There was also an association for "common defence," commanded by George Bowes, esq.† Increased exertions were now made for the defence of Newcastle against the rebel army; the whole of the gates except three were walled up, and all possible dispatch used to complete the reparation of the town-wall, upon which about 200 cannon were planted. On September 26th, lord Mark Kerr inspected the walls, and declared them to be in a good condition for defence; he at the same time ordered three machine batteries to be raised—one in the Close, another on the Quay, and a third on the Windmill-hills. On the 28th, the volunteers joined the other forces, and had their stations assigned them. Sunderland furnished Newcastle with 16 pieces

* These troops introduced an infectious fever into Berwick, which swept off great numbers of both sexes. In the months of November and December, 109 interments appear in the burial register.—*Fuller*. † Bowes Papers.

of heavy ordnance, offering at the same time several more, and a great number of able men, if there were occasion for them. On the 2nd of October, an express arrived from the duke of Newcastle, stating that his majesty had ordered directly to Newcastle, from Flanders, eight regiments of foot, which were to be followed as soon as possible by three regiments of horse. Several keels laden with heavy artillery, powder, ball, and other warlike stores, came up the river to Newcastle, from Clifford's fort. The cannon were mounted on the town-wall,* and the ammunition was deposited in a magazine, in the Castle yard. On October 4th, the Glasgow man-of-war, which had



CASTLE AT NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

been ordered to the Tyne, sailed for Scotland, with lord Loudon, to head the well-affected clans, and march against the rebels. On the night of October the 7th, two sentinels on the walls of Berwick, observing a light moving towards them, fired their pieces, which alarmed the whole town; the garrison was immediately got under arms, but nothing appearing to oppose them, they soon retired to their quarters; but to prevent surprise, fires were ordered to be made round the town in the night time, about two hundred yards distant from the walls. This day, James Lockhart, of Carnwath, arrived at Berwick, and surrendered himself prisoner to general Cope; a ship-of-war, and a king's tender, also arrived at the same place. The masts of

* Great guns were placed on this occasion at the Close-gate, White Friar-tower, Postern-gate, Heslop's-house, Old Roper's tower, Dobison's-tower, West-gate, Hatters'-tower, Glaziers'-tower, Pavours'-tower, St. Andrew's-tower, Newgate, Pilgrim-street-gate, Weavers'-tower, Cutlers'-tower, Ropers'-tower, Pandon-gate, Carpenters'-tower, Sand-gate, on the wall above the pant. Broad-chare, Sandhill-corner, Bridge-end, and at the mayor's.—*Brand*.

the tender being taken out, it was stationed above the bridge; the ship-of-war, three transports, and some other vessels, were stationed below the bridge, which completely defended the south part of that town. October the 11th, being the anniversary of the coronation of the king (George II.), was observed in the most hearty and popular manner. At Newcastle, the English and Dutch troops were drawn up at noon on the Sandhill, and each of them fired three vollies. Afterwards the officers dined with the mayor, who also gave money to the men to drink his majesty's health. October 12th, the following notice was published:—"Newcastle-upon-Tyne,—All persons whatsoever resident within the walls of the said town, that have any ladder or ladders, are desired immediately to bring the same into the town's yard, behind the hospital in the Manors. And it is ordered, that no person whatsoever (except the proper gunners) shall come near the great guns, within the said town, after six o'clock at night. And that no person whatsoever, fire a gun or other fire arms, in or near the said town, in the evening or at night, when it is dark, upon pain of imprisonment. And all persons living without the walls, but within the liberties of the said town, who have in their custody any fire arms, are desired immediately to bring and deliver them at the mayor's house. And all persons living within the said town, who have in their custody, any pick-axes or shovels, are also desired forthwith to deliver them at the same place. And notice is hereby given, that the fair, customarily held here on the 18th of October, yearly, will not be held on the 18th instant, but some time after, of which public notice will be given." "CUTHBERTSON." Several sentry boxes were set at convenient distances on the walls of Newcastle, and a vast number of sand bags hung over them, and palisadoes were fixed near them to hinder the access of an enemy. Several parts of the river Tyne, were also palisadoed, to prevent the enemy crossing it at low water. On October 17th, general Handyside passed through Newcastle, for Berwick, to command there in the room of general Cope. The next day, a vessel arrived at Newcastle, under convoy of the Ludlow man-of-war, with sixty chests of arms, containing fifteen hundred; forty-five barrels of gun-powder, and a ton and a half of lead shot, for that town, and twelve gunners for Berwick. On the same night, Lockhart, of Carnwath, arrived at Newcastle, guarded by 12 dragoons, on his way to London. He was lodged at Mr. Barber's, bookseller, in Humble's buildings. October 21st, the purveyors of general Wade's army, arrived at Darlington, and employed all the bakers in that town to get bread ready against the arrival of the army, then on its march to Newcastle. Oct. 22d, the Earl of Albemarle, and several other officers of distinction arrived at Newcastle,

from on board the Gibraltar man-of-war. Same day, general Cope and brigadier Fowkes, came into Newcastle, and, on the following day, they, together with Mr. Lockhart, and Mr. Hixon, who had been taken up as a spy, set out for London. Hixon, who was a noted publican, of Perth, was apprehended at Newcastle, on the 24th of the preceding month, and on his examination before the magistrates, confessed that he was on the Pretender's errand; and on searching his portmanteau, there was found inclosed in the top of a glove, a letter addressed by the Pretender to his friends in England, whereupon he was committed to Newgate, where he attempted to destroy himself, by cutting his throat with a penknife, but did not execute his purpose effectually. October 24th, several vessels arrived at Berwick with troops from Flanders. Seventeen transports also arrived at Newcastle with troops, which were quartered in that and the neighbouring towns. On the 31st a very fine train of brass cannon, with ammunition, and other stores, on upwards of one hundred carriages, and some regiments of horse arrived at Newcastle, all of which were encamped on Newcastle town-moor. The army under general Wade whose head quarters were at this period at Newcastle, amounted to upwards of twenty thousand men. The rebel army, which at this time did not much exceed six thousand men, and had remained inactive in Edinburgh for more than a month, began its march on the 1st of November. The whole force was divided into two columns; the first to move upon Carlisle by the direct road through Moffat; the second, headed by Charles in person, to take the more circuitous route by Kelso, as if it intended to enter England not by Cumberland but by Northumberland, and to meet marshal Wade in front. Charles crossed the Tweed at Kelso, on the 5th, and halted one day in that little town. In crossing the English border the spirit of the superstitious mountaineers was much depressed by a trifling accident;—as they set their feet on English sward they drew their claymores and shouted; but Cameron of Lochiel, in drawing his sword, happened to cut his hand, and all those hardy fellows turned pale at the sight of a little blood, because it was considered as a bad omen. From Kelso, Charles sent forward to Wooler, sham orders to prepare quarters for his troops as if he intended to march eastward, but when he moved he struck to the westward, marching down Liddesdale. On the 9th he was joined on the Carlisle road by the other column, and the whole army marched forward for that city, from which the deceptive movements of the Highland army had completely withdrawn the attention of Wade. Nov. 8th, prince Maurice of Nassau, accompanied by field-marshal Wade, and a great number of general officers, reviewed the troops that were encamped on Newcastle Moor,

where the army was drawn up in battle array, consisting of two grand lines, each three deep, and near two miles long, and the train of artillery properly disposed, the whole exhibiting a grand and imposing spectacle. On the 14th, about nine o'clock at night, the *Trial*, sloop-of-war, captain Barry, of twenty-four guns, was driven ashore at Holy Island, just below the castle, but the crew (one hundred and ten men) happily got upon a rock in the sea, where they remained all night up to their middle in water. Two of the men perished by the cold. The captain stayed in the ship till the very last. By the morning's tide, the vessel drove upon a rock and was stove into pieces, but the crew saved the guns. The same night, two transports that had landed their troops at Berwick, and were returning to Holland to bring over some more, drove ashore on the rocks at Holy Island, and were driven to pieces; the crew of one was entirely lost, but eight of those of the other were saved. The country people carried off every thing valuable they could lay their hands upon. November 16th, marshal Wade's army marched from their encampment at Newcastle for Carlisle, but the general hearing at Hexham that Carlisle was then in the hands of the rebels, and that a body of them had marched southward, ordered the army back to Newcastle, where the foot were lodged in private as well as public-houses; in churches, meeting-houses, glass-houses, &c. The horse were quartered in Chester-le-street and Durham. Two Highlanders, well mounted, surrendered themselves to general Wade at Hexham, and were sent to Newcastle. On the 24th, the artillery of general Wade's army, with two regiments of foot, marched from Newcastle to the south, and on the 26th, the remainder of the army took the same route. On the night of the 29th, the army was encamped near Barnard Castle, on its way over Stanemoor. A person named Thomas Collingwood, of Thrunton, in Northumberland, having been committed to Morpeth gaol for high treason, made his escape from thence on the 27th, or 28th of November. He was afterwards taken and tried with the rebel prisoners at Carlisle, September 19th, 1746, but acquitted. December 5th, the guns which were planted on the walls of Newcastle, were tried by the gunners, with general satisfaction. December 15th, a captain in Glenbucket's regiment, and six other rebels, were brought to Newcastle from Penrith, and committed to gaol. On the night of the 17th, Newcastle was alarmed with the news of the appearance of a party of rebels at Lanchester, on their way to Newcastle, on which, in less than three quarters of an hour, near one hundred and fifty volunteers of captain Aubone's company assembled and offered their services to colonel Frazer, to guard the pass of the Tyne at Newburn; but an express arriving soon

after with the account, that the rebels had taken a different route, the volunteers were dismissed. On the 18th, general Huske, with one thousand men from general Wade's army, arrived in Newcastle for the security of that town, as it was apprehended that the rebels on their retreat might pay it a visit. On the 19th a French drummer arrived in Newcastle, from lord John Drummond, in Scotland, with letters to marshal Wade* and the prince of Nassau. The following day the marshal returned to Newcastle, and in the evening his artillery arrived. One thousand foot under general Huske, left on the 21st to join the duke of Cumberland at Carlisle. Horses were provided for them at Hexham to expedite their march. The British portion of marshal Wade's army (which marched in three divisions), arrived at Newcastle on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, the Dutch remained at Durham. December 26th, an express arrived at Newcastle from his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, then near Carlisle, to marshal Wade, requesting him to send directly some experienced captains of ships, who had served on board the royal navy, and understood the management of great guns; also some powder, balls, co-horns, matrosses, &c., upon which captain Errington,† and captain Francis Heath, two of the elder brethren of the Trinity-house, and ten other brethren of the same house, offered their services, and set out the next morning for Carlisle. The ammunition was sent off immediately on the arrival of the express, under an escort of soldiers all mounted. On the 27th, general Hawley, arrived at Newcastle to take the command of the army, marshal Wade having to leave the north for London. December 29th, Walter Blackett, and Nicholas Fenwick, esqs., members of parliament for Newcastle, left that town for Carlisle, to compliment the duke of Cumberland on the part of the corporation, and to invite his royal highness to that town. On the following day they arrived at the duke's head quarters, where they had the honour to dine with his royal highness. On the morning of this day, while shot and shell were falling fast about them, the rebel garrison hung out a white flag, and proposed a surrender; and on the 31st the deputation had the pleasure to make part of the duke's cavalcade in his triumphal entry into Carlisle. January the 14th all the forces at Newcastle had marched northward. On the 12th, there arrived at Shields from London, twelve eighteen

* The following answer by General Wade was returned by the French drummer, viz. : —“ *That the marshal hath no answer to give to the letter brought by him, and that he can receive no message from a person who is a subject of the king's, and in rebellion against his majesty.*”

† August 17th, 1773, died in Newcastle, aged 85, Captain William Errington, master of the pilots of that port. In the prime of his life he was supposed to be the strongest man in England, of which he occasionally gave proof by many surprising feats of strength.

pounders, for the use of Tynemouth fort; also two officers of artillery and nineteen gunners, with matrosses for general Hawley's army at Edinburgh, whence they proceeded on the 14th, and on the following day the train of artillery set out for the same place. At the battle of Falkirk, which was fought on the 17th of January, 1746, Mr. Hall, a native of Newcastle, and a captain in Munro's regiment of grenadiers, fell gloriously:—Five of the rebels having taken one of his men prisoner, the captain boldly attacked them, killed two or three with his own hand, and released the grenadier, but the ungrateful poltroon immediately fled and left his captain to the mercy of a fresh *posse* of rebels who butchered him in a most barbarous manner with their broadswords. About eight o'clock at night on the 27th of January his royal highness the duke of Cumberland arrived at the city of Durham, from the south. He was met by the mayor, recorder, and aldermen, with the town's music and banners at the head of Elvet, whence they marched in procession before him through the city, which was brilliantly illuminated. On the same night the news of his royal highness's approach was brought to Newcastle, and thousands of the inhabitants flocked to the low parts of the town, along the bridge, and into Gateshead, in expectation of beholding this heroic prince. The streets in Newcastle, through which he had to pass, were lined with soldiers, but his royal highness not arriving so soon as expected, at ten o'clock at night they were dismissed; however, about one on the morning of the 28th, his royal highness arrived at Gateshead, where he was welcomed by a kind of illumination which gave him great uneasiness. The mob having set a mansion-house, and a popish chapel on fire,* at that place on the occasion. The outrage is said to have proceeded from the following circumstances. The family being from home, the house, chapel, &c. were left to the care of the gardener, whose name was Woodness; when the duke and his attendants were passing, the mob being anxious to see them, several persons climbed upon the garden walls to have a better view, when the gardener, afraid of his master's property, let loose some dogs which bit several who were keelmen; and being exasperated, they attempted to seize the gardener, who, no doubt, would have fallen a victim to their rage. Finding the object of their fury had eluded them, they set fire to the mansion-

* The ancestors of the Riddells, of Swinburne Castle and Cheeseburne Grange, were many years seated at it, and, in their time, it was called Gateshead-house. When the house was fired, it was the seat of the Claverings of Callaly, since which time it remained untenanted. The same morning early, some disorderly persons broke and entered into a house called "The Nuns," in Newcastle (where was another popish chapel), and took away and destroyed several goods. &c. belonging to it. The corporation liberally offered £50. for the discovery of the offenders.

house, &c. The duke was met on the bridge at his entrance into Newcastle, by the mayor and aldermen in their robes, attended by several other gentlemen, who after having paid him the compliments due to his exalted rank and station, walked before him to the mansion-house, the streets being, while he passed, illuminated with torches, the bells ringing and guns firing. He was attended by the earl of Albemarle, whose son lord Bury, was *aid-de-camp* to the duke. They had travelled in a coach and six from London to Durham, but finding the roads bad, his royal highness was pleased to accept of a horse, which was presented to him by George Bowes, esq, M. P. for the county of Durham, upon which he rode into Newcastle. About seven o'clock next morning his royal highness proceeded to the north, and was saluted on his departure with a peal of bells, and a discharge of cannon from the town wall. Similar demonstrations of loyalty and affection were shown at every town through which he passed. At Morpeth he was met by the bailiffs and other officers, accompanied by the principle inhabitants and most of the neighbouring gentry, who conducted him through that town (for he made no stop in it) with all possible marks of affection and repeated acclamations. When the duke's army reached Felton, Edward Horsley Widdrington, esq., who professed the Roman Catholic religion, caused the contents of his well-stored cellar to be carted to the street of the village, where he regaled the different corps as they advanced, with bread, beef, and beer. His royal highness, in passing through, experienced his hospitality, and at parting expressed his satisfaction at such distinguished liberality. Mr. W. replied, that he wished well to his illustrious family, and detested internal commotions, as neither plenty nor pleasure could be enjoyed independent of peace. The sympathetic zeal of the inhabitants catching his royal highness's attention, he graciously condescended to bestow upon this village, the flattering appellation of *the loyal little village of Felton*. His royal highness dined at Alnwick, and was welcomed with every demonstration of joy. About two o'clock on the morning of the 29th he was met upon the bridge at Berwick by the mayor and magistrates, who conducted him to the governor's house, where he lodged until eight o'clock, when he set out for Edinburgh. There were great rejoicings during the few hours his royal highness remained at Berwick. He was also presented with the freedom of the town, On the 10th February the duke of Cumberland's baggage, carried on mules, richly caparisoned, passed through Newcastle for Scotland; and, on the 13th, about £20,000. in cash, was sent from Newcastle for the use of the army there, escorted by a party of dragoons. On the 17th, in the night, some rebels at Newcastle, attempted to break

out of the gaol, but their design was frustrated, and they were committed to the dungeon. March 3d, thirty transports, arrived in the Tyne, under convoy of his majesty's ships Sheerness, Gibraltar, Grenada, and Hawk sloop. On the 11th, the Dutch troops commenced embarking in these transports, and sailed from Shields shortly after. All fears respecting the rebels being at this time dissipated, the gates of Newcastle, which had been built up, were ordered to be opened as formerly. April the 21st, an express arrived at Newcastle with the important information of the duke of Cumberland having obtained a complete victory over the rebels on the 16th at Culloden. All business was immediately suspended, the bells of the churches were rung, and the guns incessantly thundered from the ships and the walls. About five o'clock in the afternoon, the marquis of Granby's regiment was drawn up on the Sandhill, where the mayor and magistrates were assembled, three volleys were fired, during which many loyal healths were drank amidst the loud huzzas of the populace. In the evening, bon-fires were lighted in the streets, and the windows, both of the houses and churches, were very splendidly illuminated, as were also the ships in the river; the young gentlemen of the Free Grammar School caused tar barrels to be burnt, and had their school illuminated at their own expense. Nor were the rejoicings confined to the limits of Newcastle, but equally manifested in every town and village, and even private houses. April 22d, lord Bury went through Newcastle express for London, with the particulars of that glorious action. On the 2d of May, the French officers and men who had been taken prisoners at Inverness, arrived in Newcastle, and were confined in the Moothall. On the 5th they proceeded under a strong escort for Carlisle. June the 16th, a man named Lewis, a Welshman, and one Baillie, an Irishman, were shot at Berwick for deserting to the rebel army. July 10th, arrived in Newcastle on his way to London, under escort of a party of dragoons, John Murray, esq., of Broughton, the pretender's secretary. On the 23d, about one o'clock in the morning, his royal highness the duke of Cumberland arrived at Newcastle from Scotland. He was accompanied by Lancelot Allgood, esq., high sheriff for the county of Northumberland, and sir William Middleton, bart., of Belsay castle, the latter of whom had attended the duke from his passing through to Scotland, and was present at the battle of Culloden. His royal highness was met at Newgate, and welcomed to town by Cuthbert Smith, esq., mayor, William Cuthbert, esq., recorder, and several other persons of distinction, who conducted him to the mansion-house, where he was presented, by the mayor, with the freedom of the town in a gold box, and also with that of the Trinity-house, by Francis

Heath, esq., master, in another gold box, being both of curious workmanship, which his royal highness accepted very graciously. The duke set out for London about three o'clock the same morning. There were illuminations, bon-fires, and other rejoicings on the occasion. On the 28th the famous lord Lovat arrived in Newcastle, escorted by two troops of dragoons. The next morning he proceeded on his journey to London, attended as above.* In August, the high sheriff of Northumberland received orders to return his majesty's thanks to the gentlemen of the said county, for the distinguished zeal they had shewn for his majesty's service during the continuance of the unnatural rebellion.—*Pict. Hist. of Engd, Brand. Fuller, &c.*

1746 (January 2).—Died, Edward Chicken, author of "The Collier's Wedding."—and other poems. He was born in St. John's parish, Newcastle, in the year 1798, His father, it is believed, was a weaver, who died during the minority of his children, and, in consequence of the widow's limited circumstances, the sons received their elementary education at the parish charity school. Mr. Chicken was a free burgess by patrimony, and a member of the weavers' company. His acquirements were commensurate with the duties of a teacher, which profession he followed at his residence (now the Three Tuns), near the White cross in Newgate street. He was also parish clerk of St. John's during a period of twenty-five years.—*Cair's Mem. of Edward Chicken.*

January 7.—Early in the morning a fire broke out in Chester-le-Street, in the house used for a guard-house there, in which was about 50 horse load of baggage, the house, and all it contained was entirely consumed in about two hours.—*Local Papers.*

May 12.—A new road made between Sunderland and Wearmouth, which was done after the turnpike manner.—*Ettrick's Diary.*

September 3.—John Stewart, was executed at Morpeth, according to his sentence for breaking Mr. Stokoe's shop, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, and stealing goods; also for stealing a horse.—*Local Papers.*

September 8.—Three men and one woman escaped out of Durham gaol, with their irons on.—*Ibid.*

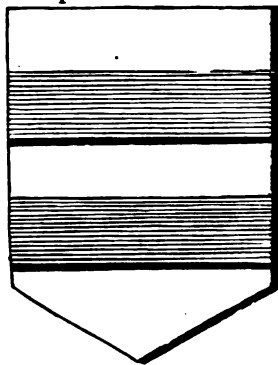
September 15th.—Alexander Anthony, a soldier in General Cholmondley's regiment, quartered in Newcastle, was shot on the town moor, for enlisting in the French service. He was wounded at the battle of Fontenoy, and made prisoner by the French; afterwards persuaded to enlist into Fitz-James's horse, with whom he came over

* He was beheaded on Tower-hill, London, on the 9th of April, 1747.

to Scotland and joined the rebels, and was very active in their service at the battle of Culloden, after which he was taken prisoner. He died a Roman Catholic, behaved decently, and begged of all his brother soldiers never to desert their colours. He was about 23 years of age, and born at Stamford, in Lincolnshire.—*Local Papers*.

1746 (Sept. 24).—Died at Horse-gate, in the parish of Ryton, Mr. Robert Laws, farmer, in the 109th year of his age. He retained his memory and senses to the last.—*Ibid*.

Sept. 25.—Died, the last baron, John Hilton, esq., only male repre-



sentative of the ancient and honourable family of Hilton, of Hilton castle, in the county of Durham. Amongst other baronial appendages, Mr. Hilton was one of the latest gentlemen in England, who kept a domestic fool. The baron on one occasion, on his return from London, quitted his carriage at the Ferry, and amused himself with a homeward saunter through his own woods and meadows; at Hilton foot-bridge, he encountered his faithful fool, who staring on the gaudy

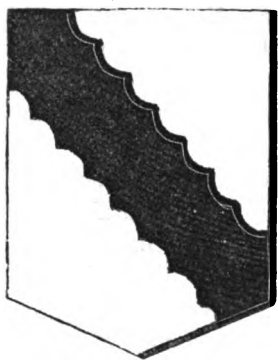
laced suit of his patron, made by some southern tailor, exclaimed, "Wha's fule now?" A portrait of Mr. Hilton is still preserved at the castle, let into a pannel above the fire place in the great dining room.—*Surtees*.



HILTON CASTLE, DURHAM.

October 9.—Francis Wrench was buried at Norton, near Stockton, in the 110th year of her age.—*Norton Reg.*

1746 (December 8th.)—Charles Ratcliffe, esq., brother to the unfortunate earl of Derwentwater, was beheaded on Tower-hill, London. He was tried and condemned for being in the rebellion in 1715, but escaped from Newgate on the 11th of December, 1716. He was taken in the *Soliel*, a French privateer, November 25th, 1745, with Fitz-James' horse, and about one hundred others, French, Scotch, and Irish, and a great quantity of arms and ammunition, bound to Montrose, to assist the Pretender, in the rebellion of



that year. On his examination, he contended that he was not Charles, but Francis Ratcliffe, who had retired to France previous to the rebellion in 1715, but two persons from Northumberland, named Abraham Bunting* and Thomas Mouzeley, swore to his identity, and he was executed as above on his former attainder. This unfortunate gentleman, was the youngest of three sons born to sir Francis Ratcliffe, by the lady Mary Tudor, natural daughter to King Charles II. From the time of Ratcliffe's escape he had resided abroad, and latterly in France, where he married the lady Newburgh, relict of the honourable Thomas Clifford, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. James Bartholomew, the eldest son, was prisoner with him in the Tower, and afterwards claimed the earldom of Newburgh in right of his mother, and died in 1776. Mr. Spearman in his notes to Hutchinson's History of Northumberland, says that, "Charles Ratcliffe was frequently in England betwixt 1715 and 1745; when he was taken, there was great difficulty in identifying his person. Old sir William Middleton of Belsay, though a staunch presbyterian whig, would not swear against him; but at last one Reed of Aydenbridge, who had been Charles R's schoolfellow, swore positively to his person from a scar on his forehead, which he saw

* Abraham Bunting swore, that the first time he saw the prisoner was at the funeral of one of the family, that he saw him once, he believed, afterwards; and the last time he saw him was on horse-back, at Hexham, with the rebels, in 1715, and that he was sure the prisoner was the person. Thomas Mouzeley swore, that he lived within two miles of the seat belonging to the Derwentwater family, in Northumberland, that he had often seen the prisoner at the bar, and that he knew him to be Charles Ratcliffe, brother of the late earl of Derwentwater; being asked by the prisoner's counsel how he could be so positive, he said, by a scar on the right side of his face, which was always much whiter than the rest of his face, and looked like the mark of a scald. This appeared plain upon the prisoner's face.

him receive when they were boys going to school together, by a fall from his gallows. About the year 1774, *this old rascal* was thrown from his horse, near the very place where the former accident occurred. Mr. Errington, of Sandhoe, (a papist,) and his lady, took him into their carriage, and carried him home. He survived a short time, and died, it is said, under some other strange circumstances."

1746.—This year, the pier at Sunderland was 333 yards in length, and 30 feet broad at top, and £19,787. had been expended in its construction. In 1765 it had cost £50,000. and it was estimated that its completion would require as much more.—*Surtees*.

Joseph Swallow, of Durham, jeweller, was tried at the assizes there, for drinking king James's health.—*Local Papers*.

1747 (Jan. 10).—Lieutenant Melvil and ensign Reynolds, of Chomondley's regiment, quartered in Newcastle, happening to be in company at a tavern with some gentlemen, Mr. Reynolds several times drank damnation to all Scotsmen, calling them rebels, &c., though he knew Mr. Melvil was a native of that country, which enraged the latter to a very great degree, but the company prevented them doing any harm to each other, and they seemed after to be reconciled; however, their swords were taken from them, and they were sent to their respective lodgings under arrest. Next morning, Mr. Reynolds sent a challenge to Mr. Melvil, to meet him at a place named, and so impatient was he for an answer, that he could not wait the return of the messenger, but went himself to the house where Mr. Melvil lodged, who, being in bed, immediately got up and dressed himself, and then told the messenger that Mr. Reynolds might come to him as soon as he pleased. The unhappy man came up stairs directly, and in a few minutes the pistols were heard to go off as one shot, and Mr. Reynolds fell. Mr. Melvil immediately after came down stairs, and desired the people of the house to call a surgeon to the assistance of his antagonist, which was expeditiously done, but to no purpose, as he expired before any one could come. Mr. Melvil retired by the Carlol Croft, and was that day seen with his servant, three miles north of Morpeth, both on foot. Mr. Melvil had parried Mr. Reynolds' pistol, as the ball had struck the wall above a man's height, but the ball fired at Mr. Reynolds went in at one side of the breast, and out at the other, and lodged in the room door. The coroner's inquest brought in a verdict of manslaughter.—*Gents. Mag.*

January 24.—At ten o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in Felton hall, which burnt with great violence, and in four hours consumed the body of the house. The wind being moderate, the two wings were saved from the flames, and all things of value were removed.—*Local Papers*.

1747 (Feb. 6).—George Maccan, a soldier in general Guise's regiment of foot, quartered at Berwick, was shot there for deserting four times, at one of which he joined the rebels. He was also much addicted to stealing. The morning of his execution, under favour of the noise of the drum beating the *reveille*, he attempted to break out of gaol, and, with no other instrument than his handcuffs, beat such large pieces of hewn stone out of the walls that no one could have supposed it to have been done without the aid of a large hammer.—*Local Papers*.

May 11.—As the Newcastle merchant, captain Scourfield, was coming up the river Tyne, to her moorings at the high crane, Newcastle, there happened to be a two pound ball in one of her guns, unknown to the captain or any of the crew, so that upon her firing, as was usual when ships came up the river, the ball was shot out, but happily did no other mischief than penetrating eight inches into a stone in the Exchange, and rebounding back on the quay.—*Ibid*.

May 31.—Died, John Hedworth, of Chester deanery, esq., M. P. for the county of Durham. He was descended from the ancient family of Hedworths, of Harraton, son of Ralph Hedworth, of Chester deanery, by his wife Eleanor, daughter of Henry Lambton, of Lambton, esq. He represented the county from the year 1713 until his death, which occurred while in his chariot near Leicester, on his journey to Bath. He was the last male representative of the family of Hedworth.—*Sharp's Knts. of Dur.*

June 26.—The Ann and Mary, of Whitby, took fire and burnt to the waters edge, at Jarrow quay, near Shields, and damaged the Constant Mary, of Whitby. Two sailors were blown up.—*Univ. Mag.*



July 13.—Died, at his seat at Hebburn, in the county of Durham, in the 75th year of his age, William Ellison, esq., senior alderman of the corporation of Newcastle. He was sheriff of that town in 1710, 1722, and 1734; and declined his turn of mayoralty the year preceding his death, on account of his great age and infirmities. The old mansion-house at Hebburn, in which Mr. Ellison resided, was strongly built, as if for defence, like the Border towers. It was near-

ly rebuilt about the year 1790.—*Surtees*.

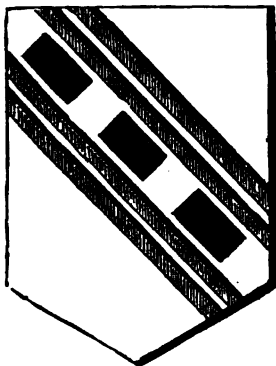
August 28.—In the night, thirteen French prisoners made their escape from Tynemouth, by means of a hole which they had dug under the foundation of the prison into a garden adjoining. They went directly to Cambois, near Blyth, where the first four of them

got into a boat, and made to a sloop lying there laden with iron, cut her cable, and went off to sea. The sloop was afterwards seized at the Brill, and, with her cargo of iron, sent back to the right owners. September 13th, three more of the French prisoners made their escape from the prison at Tynemouth. A fourth was taken in the hole as he was coming out.—*Local Papers*.

1747 (Nov. 2).—At a farm house, belonging to Mr. George Rippon, at Hamsteel, near Durham, a boy holding a candle, accidentally set fire to some straw in a barn, by which the barn, a stack of hay, and five stacks of corn, were entirely consumed.—*Ibid*.

December 19.—Died, John Fenwick, esq., member of parliament for Northumberland.—*Gent's. Mag*.

By an inscription on the town-hall, at Barnardcastle, that building was erected this year at the expense of Thomas Breaks, esq., a native of that town.—*Surtees*.

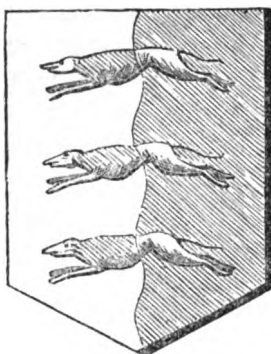


This year, died, John Millot, esq., of Whitehill, near Chester-le-Street. He was a man of very singular habits and conversation, as appears from a curious old screen still preserved at Whitehill, on which several of his exploits are depicted. In one compartment he is hunting, in another drinking and smoking, in a third he appears as a successful gambler, and seems to be enforcing payment of his winnings by an appeal to a brace of pistols; and,

to omit some other adventures, in the second compartment, his game cock is clapping and crowing, having "won the 100 guineas at Newcastle, March 31st, 1746," whilst three rivals, Dunn, Brandling, and Bates, lie dead at his feet, and a craven-cock, inscribed Farrer Wren, esq., is running away. Whitehill was in the family of Millot for more than three hundred years. In 1438, William Melote (under sheriff of Durham) died, seized of the manor of Whitehill, consisting of a mansion-house and 117 acres of land, by 40s. rent and service, and the twenty-fourth part multure at the manor mill of Chester. Whitehill house stands one mile west of Chester-le-Street, near the brink of Chester burn, overlooking a shivery cliff covered with copsewood. The east view embraces Chester spire, Lumley castle, and a beautiful and highly cultivated country.—*Ibid*.

1748 (Feb. 6).—Peace with Spain was proclaimed at Newcastle, with the usual formalities.—*Local Papers*.

March 4.—The parish register of Mitford, Northumberland, records the burial of John Fenwick, aged 114.—*Chron. Mir*.



1748, March 24.—This morning, died, the rev. Robert Thomlinson, D.D., rector of Whickham, in the county of Durham, prebendary of St. Paul's, London, and lecturer of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, aged 79 years. He was a gentleman of great learning and distinguished judgment; his conversation easy, open, instructive, and adorned with such a modest and agreeable cheerfulness, as endeared him to all who had the happiness of his acquaintance. He was an excellent preacher, and an ornament to religion; ever delighting to instruct the ignorant, and always ready to help the poor and needy. His extensive charities, both public and private, will serve as lasting monuments to this truly pious and good man. His library, which was very large, he left to augment that in the church of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle. He was blind for some time before his death, so that cords were placed to enable him to go to and fro in his apartments. His widow died at Whickham, December 16th, 1769, in the 102d year of her age.—*Local Papers*.

May 4.—“Mr. Harle and I having joined in setting up a stage coach from Sunderland to Durham, and from Durham to Newcastle; it set out this morning from Sunderland and returned at night, but did not bring in one farthing. May 10.—This week the coach has brought in 14s., and our outlay is about £3. The roads being so bad that we were forced to use six horses. May 11.—Mr. Harle and I divided our stocks about the stage coach, and gave it over; two of the horses came into my hands at £12—one which cost when bought in, £13 5s. June 6.—I set a post-chaise on foot on the terms of the stage coach. June 18.—I gave over the post-chaise also, it having gone a fortnight, and Mr. Harle's near another fortnight, and brought in but very little more than the disbursements: my division was £2 1s.”—*Ettrick's Diary*.

July 11.—About two o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the house of Robert Newby, a barber, at Barnardcastle, which destroyed two houses before it was extinguished. The honourable Mr. Vane sent his engine and apparatus to the assistance of the inhabitants, which contributed greatly to the extinguishing of the flames. Mr. Vane very generously made a present of them to the town.—*Local Papers*.

August 15.—Paul Coleman was executed at Durham, for robbing Mr. Hutchinson, attorney, of that city, of his watch, &c., and stopping Mr. Colling, with an intent to rob him. Coleman had been a

chairman in London, and had come to the north for the purpose of highway robbery and house-breaking. He robbed Mr. Hutchinson on Elvet moor, near the city of Durham, he also took Mr. Hutchinson's horse, which was found the next morning near Plawsworth. On searching his lodgings, at Newcastle, pistols, powder, slugs, and flints, were found. He was a desperate fellow upwards of six feet high.—

Local Papers.

1748 (August).—Several locusts were found in the counties of Northumberland and Durham. In form they resembled grasshoppers, hopping and flying in the same manner, but of a more robust make, and of a different colour. The wings transparent and brown, divided into panes by a small black line, spotted and scaly in appearance like a salmon, and much like that fish in colour. The length about two inches and a half, and the body scaly, and of the size of a large butterfly. The wings, extended, measured five inches.—*Newcastle Gen. Mag.*

September 18.—A fire happened at Bowran, near Barnardcastle, which reduced thirty-four dwelling-houses and outhouses to ashes.—*Ibid.*

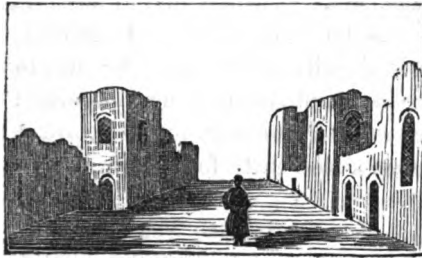
Same day, a dreadful fire broke out at Blaydon, which burnt three houses with great fury, and had not great diligence and care been used in keeping the rest of the houses wet (the wind blowing very violently), all the south side of the village would certainly have been reduced to ashes.—*Local Papers.*

September 23.—Died, in Newcastle, Catharine Ratcliff, aged 113 years, supposed at the time of her death to be the oldest woman in that town.—*Ibid.*

This year, the corporation of Newcastle, began, at their own expense, a large causeway, in the manner of the turnpike roads, eleven yards in breadth, across the moor of that town, by the way leading to Morpeth, in Northumberland. This was completely finished in 1749, under the direction of Mr. William Joyce, surveyor. Bourne tells us, that the town moor "was originally a wood very famous for oaks, out of which have been built many hundred ships, and all the houses of the old town of Newcastle."—*Brand.*

The inhuman custom, of *throwing at cocks*, on Shrove-Tuesday, was continued in Stockton, till about this period, when it was suppressed by the rev. Mr. Skelly.—*Brewster.*

A play-house was built in Newcastle, upon part of the walls of St. Bartholomew's hospital, near the nun's-gate. The entrance to the play-house was from the Turk's head yard. The old wall was visible until about the year 1833. The passage called Nun's-lane, had formerly been the entrance to this nunnery. The annexed wood cut is



a *fac simile* of an extremely scarce engraved view of the "Nunns Newcastle," of which a reduced copy is given in Brand's History.

1748 or 9.—Dr. Cowper, dean of Durham, pulled down an old part of the deanery at Durham, next the garden facing the south, and rebuilt the same in a handsome manner. He also altered and improved some of the apartments behind the great room. In the beginning of the year 1752, he put two handsome Gothic windows into the old octangular kitchen on the south side facing the college.—*Hutchinson*.

1749.—At this period, the parish of Whitfield, in the county of Northumberland, comprising 12,157 acres, had only 3,231 acres of enclosed ground. The roads through the parish were mere trackways, and the principal employment of the people was the conveyance of lead ore to the neighbouring smelt-mills, in sacks, on the backs of ponies. There was not a cart in the country. The farms were very small—seldom above twenty pounds a-year, and the dwelling-houses and farm-offices upon them, of the most wretched description; of these, the present owner, William Ord, esq., pulled down between seventy-eight and eighty, and has replaced them with large and substantial farm-houses and commodious offices; besides building numerous cottages, workshops and mills for grinding corn and sawing timber. The turnpike-road through the parish was first made under authority of an act of parliament passed in 1778, but since 1824, under the provisions of another act, its line has been very greatly improved.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

January 2.—This day, the duke of Newcastle's grand service of plate, valued at £400,000, was brought in a keel to the Custom-house in Newcastle, properly guarded from Shields, it having arrived there a few days before in a vessel from Holland. The next day, a waggon loaded with it set forward for London, escorted by a party of dragoons.—*Local Papers*.

January 4.—Died, at Long Horsley, in the county of Northumberland, in the 71st year of his age, Patrick Cockburn, M.A., vicar of that parish. He was a son of John Cockburn, D.D., vicar of Northolt, Middlesex. In 1708 he married Catherine, daughter of captain David

Trotter, of the navy. Was successively incumbent of Nayland, in Suffolk, and curate of St. Dunstan's, in Fleet-street; but, on the accession of George the first, scrupling to take the oath of abjuration, he resigned his curacy, and for about twelve years taught Latin, in Chancery-lane. But, in 1726, his scruples were removed by reading, and arguments of lord chancellor King, and his own father; and in 1727, he accepted the office of minister of the episcopal congregation at Aberdeen, where, on the accession of George the second, he preached "On the Duty and Benefit of Praying for Government." Soon after, the chancellor gave him the living of Long Horsley, but he did not reside upon it till 1737, when, on account of the misconduct of his curate, bishop Chandler obliged him to leave Aberdeen. Besides his sermon from 1 Tim. ii, 1-4, on the accession of George II., and his defence of it, he published in the Weekly Miscellany, "A Defence of Prime Ministers in the Character of Joseph, and a vindication of the Mosaic Deluge;" for an edition of which, subscriptions were collecting at the time of his death. Mrs. COCKBURN, his wife, shone brightly amongst the learned luminaries of her age. She was born in London in 1679; was self-instructed in writing, French, and Latin. She also studied logic; and, in reading the polemics of the day, became so enamoured with the doctrines of the Latin church, as to enter into communion with it. At fourteen, she wrote verses; at seventeen, published her tragedy of Agnes de Castro; in 1698, another tragedy, called Fatal Friendship, which was received with great applause. After this, the metaphysical writings of Locke became so much her favourite study, that at the age of twenty-two she defended the Essay on the Human Understanding, against Dr. Burnet, of the Charter-house, the eloquent author of the Theory of the Earth, and the Doctrine of the Antients concerning the Origin of Things. This brought her into the acquaintance of Locke, who furnished her with books, and was probably one of the causes of her return to communion with the church of England, which happened in 1707, the year before she married. In 1726, she defended Locke against Holdsworth, but this article was not published till after her death. Warburton wrote the elaborate preface to her Remarks upon the Principles and Reasonings in Dr. Rutherford's Essay on the Nature and Obligations of Virtue, which remarks were published in 1747. Her works—theological, moral, dramatical, and poetical, were published, with an account of her life, by Dr. Birch, in two vols. 8vo. London, 1751. Mrs. Cockburn died in the 70th year of her age, May 11th, 1749.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1749 (Jan. 7).—Died, in a very advanced age, David Hall, of Sandgate, in Newcastle, better known by the name of *Blind Davy*, who,

from frequently chaunting sonnets of his own composing, and from the similar misfortune of loss of sight, was often styled the *Newcastle Homer*, and very probably sung through as many towns as the Grecian bard, and to as numerous auditories.—*Local Papers*.

1749 (Feb. 6).—About noon the proclamation of peace was read, by order of the magistrates, in the two public markets of Newcastle, by the sheriff's serjeant; the ceremony was performed with great solemnity, the magistrates appearing in their scarlet robes (attended by the officers in the town), marched in procession from one market place to the other, in the midst of loud acclamations from the populace, who had plenty of strong beer given to them. The gentlemen, after the ceremony was over, went to the King's Head tavern, where the healths of his majesty, the royal family, &c. were drunk, and the evening was concluded with ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of joy.—*Newc. Cour.*

March 5.—Between two and three in the morning a fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Catchside, a saddler, on Tyne bridge, which, in a few hours, notwithstanding the utmost assistance of fire-engines, and a great number of hands, consumed the above shop, and that of Mr. Reaveley, a hatter, adjoining. The books and goods of both shops were destroyed, and the damage was estimated at upwards of £500.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

April 25.—Being the day appointed by his majesty for a general thanksgiving for the Peace, the magistrates of Newcastle, in their robes, attended by the principal gentlemen of the town, preceded by the proper officers, went from the Exchange to St. Nicholas' church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Mr. Turner, the vicar, from *Jeremiah*, xlvii. 6, "O thou sword of the Lord, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still." After which they returned to the Sandhill, when they drank his majesty's and other royal healths, under a triple discharge of fire-arms from three companies of colonel Bockland's regiment, joined with the loudest acclamations of a grateful people, and gave a handsome present to the soldiers to drink the healths of the day; then, the magistrates and other persons of distinction went to the Merchants' hall, where they had a very elegant entertainment, and drank many loyal healths. About six in the evening, they returned to the Sandhill, where, at a beautiful fountain, on which was inscribed in gold letters, "God save King George," with an imperial crown over it, and two spouts running with wine for the populace, the magistrates and gentlemen repeated several loyal healths. On their returning, the mob immediately gathered about the fountain, to regale themselves with the wine, and the water engines playing at the same time,

afforded excellent diversion. Several gentlemen threw money among the populace, from windows on the Sandhill, to drink his majesty's health, &c. The evening concluded with guns firing, bells ringing, and the most general illumination and brilliant assembly ever seen in that town. Several young gentlemen met on the castle, from whence they very agreeably diverted the town for several hours in the night, by firing of guns, playing of fire-wheels, rockets, &c.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1749 (June 11).—This day (Sunday) being the anniversary of his majesty's accession to the throne, its celebration in Newcastle was deferred till the following day, the morning of which was ushered in with ringing of bells, &c. At noon, three companies of colonel Bockland's regiment were drawn up before the exchange on the Sandhill, and fired three excellent vollies. The right worshipful Walter Blackett, esq., mayor, the recorder, aldermen, and common council being present, they drank his majesty's health, and gave money to the soldiers to do the same. After which, a great number of gentlemen, both of the town and from the country, dined at the mansion-house, where there was an elegant entertainment provided. After dinner, a number of loyal healths were drunk, the military firing between each. In the evening there was a splendid appearance of ladies and gentlemen at the *New Theatre* in the Turk's Head inn yard, to see the *Fair Penitent* performed; from whence the gentlemen departed, and met with many others of distinction at Mr. Recorder's club, at Mr. Ewbank's, in Pilgrim-street, to pass the rest of the evening in social cheerfulness, and to view the fireworks which had been prepared to celebrate the general peace (April 25), but which were postponed to be played off this evening, upon a scaffold erected for that purpose in front of Plummer tower, in the Carliol croft, which occasioned a vast concourse of spectators. About nine o'clock, a guard of soldiers were placed, at a proper distance surrounding the scaffolding, to keep off the crowd, that the execution of the design might not be interrupted, or the persons concerned in it incommoded. The gentlemen and ladies were placed in the houses and gardens on the east side of Pilgrim-street, and the Croft afforded sufficient room for the commonalty; so that every one had a full view of the fireworks, which began a little past ten o'clock, and continued till near one in the morning; the whole was conducted with great order and regularity, and without the least injury happening to any person.—*Ibid.*

June 13.—A bill for vesting Dilston, Langley, and other forfeited estates of the unfortunate James, earl of Derwentwater, and of his brother, Charles Ratcliffe, in trustees for an absolute state of inheritance for the benefit of Greenwich hospital, and for raising certain



LANGLEY CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND.

sums of money out of the said estates for the relief of the children of the said Charles Ratcliffe, received the royal assent on the above day.

—*Gent's. Mag.*

1749 (June).—A survey was made from Newcastle to Carlisle, under the authority of government, for the projected military road between those places. This road was commenced making near the Westgate, Newcastle, July 8th, 1751.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

July 12.—Thomas Youghusband, esq., of Budle, in Northumberland, with his gardener and gamekeeper, accompanied by Mr. Errington and a cobleman, having been shooting on the Fern islands, the coble unfortunately upset on their return to land, by which accident, Mr. Youghusband, his gardener, and the cobleman, were drowned.—*Ibid.*

August 28.—A grant passed the great seal, to Mr. William Newton, of Burnopfield, and Mr. Thomas Stokoe, of Bryan's Leap, in the county of Durham, both gentlemen of great experience in the coal works, for a new invented method of drawing coals, stones, &c. out of deep pits or mines.—*Gent's. Mag.*

October 30.—Being the anniversary of the birth-day of king George II., great rejoicings took place at Newcastle, and all the neighbouring towns. At Raby castle, the day was celebrated in a very extraordinary manner. Most of the gentlemen of the county, and many out of Yorkshire and Northumberland, were entertained after a very splendid manner, by the honourable sir Henry Vane, bart., M.P. for the county of Durham, and one of the lords of the treasury. Among other public

demonstrations, the exhibition of fireworks, from a stage erected in front of the castle, was of the most splendid kind.—*Local Papers.*



1749 (Nov. 4).—Died, at his house at Elswick, Mr. John Hodgson, linen draper, of Newcastle, and a considerable coal-owner on the river Tyne. He was a man of excellent talents in business, and unwearied in their application, which he prosecuted through a great variety and extent of affairs, with uncommon ease, calmness, and regularity; proceeding without bustle or noise, and successful without pride or ostentation; and, as he always observed the

strictest probity and honour in his dealings, managing with care and circumspection, exact in his accounts and punctual to his engagements, his conduct obtained the highest credit and confidence, and he was universally esteemed and beloved. During the time of his illness, an uncommon concern and solicitude for his recovery appeared among all ranks of people, which ended in a more general lamentation for his death, than what usually accompanies that of a private person. He was, indeed, a most worthy example in every part of life, a great benefactor to his country, by promoting its trade and commerce, and a happy support to many families concerned in his employments; a courteous and affable acquaintance; a kind and beneficent neighbour; a firm and hearty friend; a tender and affectionate husband; and a most loving and indulgent father. The general respect he so justly merited, occasioned a large number of gentlemen and others, to pay the last solemn mark of it by attending his corpse to the place of interment, in the quakers' burial ground, in Pilgrim-street.

“ Adieu, dear FRIEND, thy painful task is o’er,
And angels hail thee on a happier shore.
To Thee, all-wise, all-good, eternal mind!
Be husband, father, son, and friend resign’d.
Yet, O! forgive, if with reluctant Heart,
In Life’s mid-race, these dear relations part;
Allow the throbbing Breast, the sigh sincere,
And friendly tribute of a willing Tear.
O! may Thy care his lov’d Remains attend;
Be Thou the Husband, Father, and the Friend,
Till all the motley scenes of life shall fly,
And they rejoin above our clouded sky,
“ Where every tear is wiped from every eye.”

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—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

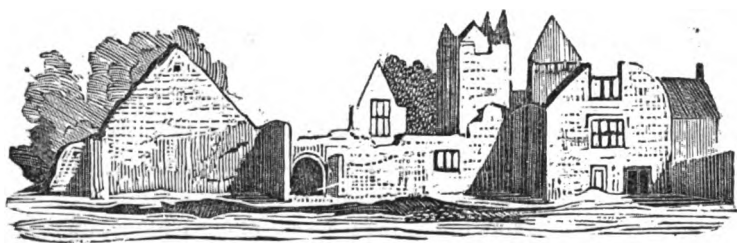
1749 (Dec. 10).—Ruth Nicholson was buried at Hartlepool, in the county of Durham, aged above 103 years.—*Chron. Mir.*

December 25.—A gentleman of Newcastle, having invited George Clark, commonly called *Skipper Clark*, bellman of Newcastle, to his Christmas dinner, he set him down to seven sheep's plucks he had provided for his dogs. George ate four of the plucks, a pound of bread, three quarts of broth mixed with an ounce of jalap, a quart of small beer, and a pint of ale. He would have ate all the plucks, had he not been shamed out of it by some gentlemen who had been invited to eye-witness this swinish transaction. It is proverbial at the present day, to call any person with a voracious appetite, *Skipper Clark*.—*Local Rec.*

A considerable quantity of silver of Edward I. and II., was, this year found near a heap or cairn of stones, not far from Unthank, in the county of Durham, and was sold by Mr. Westgarth to a silversmith, at Newcastle.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

This year, Mr. Francis Armorer, of Newcastle, coal-fitter, had living, three brothers and one sister, whose united ages amounted to 360 years or thereabouts, and were healthy persons.—*Brand.*

The church at Tanfield, Durham, was rebuilt this year, with the exception of some portion of the chancel, where a piscina remains in the south wall.—*Surtees.*



RUINS OF GATESHEAD HOUSE, FROM AN OLD PRINT. See page 9.

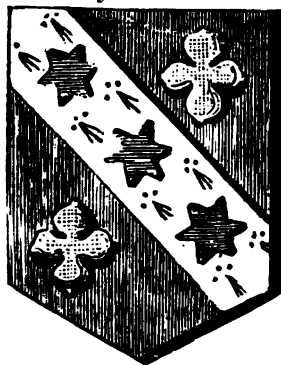
CHAPTER II.



THE years 1749 and 1750 have been rendered memorable in the northern counties, from the prevalence of a most fatal distemper, which raged to an awful extent amongst cattle of every description, and of which immense numbers died, or were destroyed, in the hope of arresting its further progress. The effects of this malady had been so severely felt in the south of England, during the two preceding years, as to attract the attention of the government; and there is an order in council, dated the 22d day of March, 1747, to enforce the immediate destruction and burial, within twenty-four hours, of all infected cattle, and the burial of such as happened to die of the distemper, within eight hours. And as a motive to induce obedience to this order, his majesty graciously promised that the commissioners of the treasury should pay half the value of such beast; not exceeding 40s. for other cattle, and 5s. for each calf, which should be killed in obedience to this order. The distemper having spread into several parts of the north riding of Yorkshire, early in 1749, the general quarter sessions of the peace for Durham, ordered, That no live cattle, or their slaughtered carcases, skins, or tallow, &c., should be suffered to pass, or be brought over the Tees northward, from that time till the court should make an order to the contrary. The quarter sessions for the county of Northumberland made the like regulations. They also ordered a strict watch to be kept at the charge of the county, at all the bridges, fords, boats, and ferries, on the rivers Tyne and Darwent, to apprehend offenders against the above orders. Notwithstanding these precautions, the disease manifested itself at Cleadon, near South Shields, about the end of March, 1749, where fifty head of cattle died within six weeks. In May it appeared at Darlington, where one farmer lost

five cows, another three, and a third, Mary Wardel, of Blackwell, lost twenty. The distemper continuing to spread, meetings of the landowners were held at various places in the counties of Durham and Northumberland. Lord Ravensworth, at a meeting of his tenants, engaged to allow each of them the full value of each beast suffering by the distemper, on condition of their promptly conforming to his Majesty's order in council. The result of these meetings, generally, was that the landowners agreed to allow to their tenants one-half the amount they would entitle themselves to, from government; and the tenants, by subscribing at the rate of 1s. a head for all the cattle they possessed, raised a fund from which the sufferer, for a beast of £4 value, received £3 10s. to enable him to re-stock his farm. In January, 1750, one Thomas Grieve was tried at the Durham sessions, and fined £20 for selling two infected cows in the market there; one-half of which fine was paid to the buyer, to repair, in some measure, the damage he sustained by the loss of all his cattle, by turning the two infected cows into his pasture at Ryhope, near Sunderland; by which also many of his neighbours suffered to a great extent. This plague ceased about June, 1750, and in July the justices of the peace reversed the orders of the preceding year. Of the many remedies recommended on this occasion, the following most extraordinary one was greatly employed by the country people, not only in the way of cure, but of prevention, viz. :—to smoke the cattle almost to suffocation, by kindling straw, litter, and other combustible matter about them. What were the effects that resulted from this process is not stated, but the most singular part of it, was that by which it was reported to have been discovered, and which, it seems, gave it an indisputable recommendation and authority. An angel (so says the legend) descended into Yorkshire, and there set a large tree on fire; the strange appearance of which, or else the savour of the smoke, incited the cattle around (some of which were infected with the distemper) to draw near the miracle, where they all either received an immediate cure, or an absolute prevention of the disorder. It is not affirmed that the angel staid to speak to any body, but only that he left a written direction for the neighbouring people to catch this supernatural fire, and to communicate it from one to another with all possible speed throughout the country; and in case that, by any unhappy means, it should be extinguished and utterly lost, that then, new fire, of equal virtue, might be obtained, not by any common method, but by rubbing two pieces of wood together till they ignited. Upon what foundation this story stood, is not exactly known, but so much is certain, that it gained sufficient credit to have put the farmers actually into a hurry of communicating flame and smoke from one house to another, with

wonderful speed, making it run like wildfire over the country.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*



1750 (Jan. 7).—Died, in the eighty-first year of his age, Gawen Aynsley, of Little Harle, in the county of Northumberland, esq. He was, perhaps, the eldest magistrate in England, having been constantly in the commission of the peace, for about sixty years, in which he never failed to discharge his duty with such distinguished ability, uprightness, and resolution, as to gain him the esteem of all virtuous men, and made him highly serviceable to the

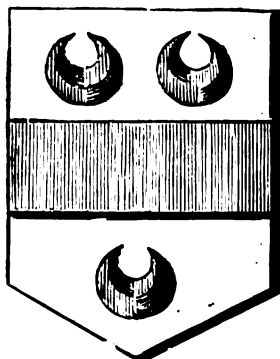
community. He was strictly loyal to his king and a sincere friend to his country: in the whole, his character was truly amiable, and worthy of imitation.—*Ibid.*

February 12.—There was launched from Mr. Headlam's yard, on the river Tyne, in the presence of a great number of spectators, a fine vessel capable of carrying upwards of thirty keels of coals, and was said to have been the largest vessel built on that river. It was called "The Russell," in compliment to one of the owners.

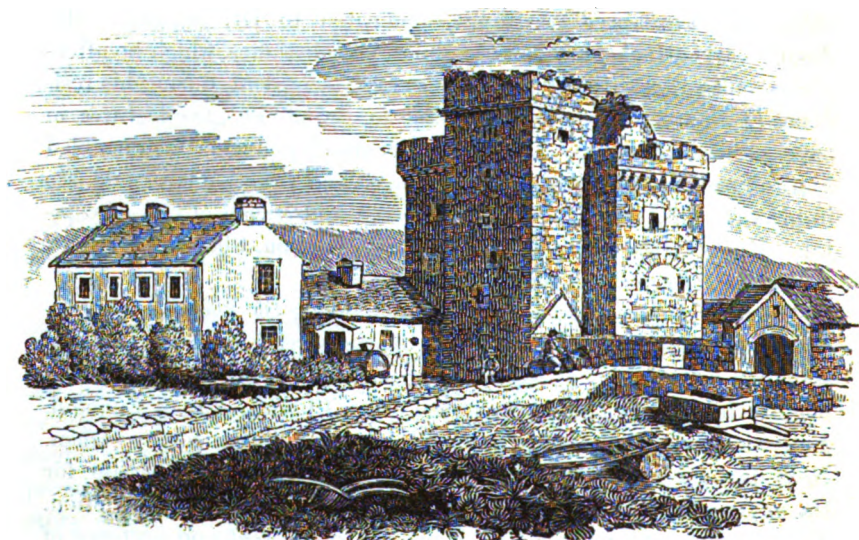
March 22.—Died, at his house, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, London, James Jurin, M.A., a man of great learning and literary eminence. He became master of the royal grammar-school, Newcastle, January 23d, 1710. During the period that he was master, he published an edition of Varenus's geography, dedicated to Dr. Bentley. Mr. Jurin's early attachment to those philosophical studies, which he afterwards cultivated with so much success, was evident during his residence at Newcastle, where, according to Brand, he gave lectures in experimental philosophy, and saved a thousand pounds, which enabled him to prosecute his plans at Cambridge, and take a doctor's degree in physic. In April, 1725, he was elected a physician of Guy's hospital. His practice was very considerable in London, where he acquired a large fortune by his profession.—*Brewster.*

March.—A very serious riot occurred among the keelmen of Newcastle, this month; and on the 27th April, several unknown persons supposed to be keelmen, assembled in Elswick-fields, near that town, one of whom, from a stile, proclaimed prince Charles, king of England, &c., to which the others assented by immediately saying Amen. Next day, the corporation of Newcastle offered a reward of £100. for the apprehension of the parties so offending, to be paid on conviction. The keelmen, who had made a stand for seven weeks on pretence of grievances, and who, during that time, had been very refractory and

riotous, commenced working on the 7th of May. Several of the most riotous were tried at the assizes in August, and convicted; some had three months' and others one month's imprisonment, and to find securities for their future good behaviour. This riot cost the hostmen of Newcastle a considerable sum of money.—*Newc. Cour.*



1750 (April 11).—Died, in Park-street, London, Sir Chaloner Ogle, knight, of Copeland castle, Northumberland, admiral and commander-in-chief of his majesty's fleet; an officer whose integrity, courage, and abilities were conspicuous in his long service of his country—upwards of fifty years. To those qualities which peculiarly adorned his profession, he added all those social virtues and goodness of heart which made his loss still more dearly regretted by those who had most known him. He was born at Kirkley, in Northumberland, and being destined to try his fortune in the royal navy, he was very early advanced by his personal merit and courage, to the command of the *Swallow* man-of-war, when he took Roberts, the famous pirate, on the coast of Africa, February 5th, 1722. For this service, captain Ogle was knighted the year following, and afterwards rose to the highest stations in the navy.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*



COPELAND CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND.

April.—As some workmen were sinking a draw-well at Ebchester, a village near the river Darwent, they discovered a very remarkable piece of antiquity, which was supposed to have been an aqueduct to a Roman bath.—*Newc. Cour.*

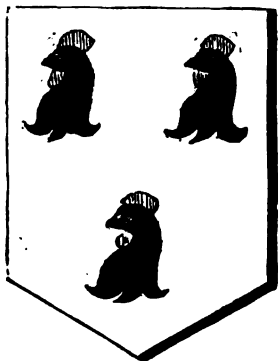
1750 (April 18).—Died, at his seat at Howick, in Northumberland, generally regretted, aged fifty-eight, sir Henry Grey, bart. May 6th, about nine o'clock at night, by his own express desire, his remains were deposited in the family vault in Howick church. He was of a very charitable and beneficent disposition. Upon the site of an old decayed church, he erected a new one, of an elegant taste. He laid out £100 towards building a convenient school-house, for the use of the poor children of the parish; and, to the former salary of £10 a-year to the master for teaching all the indigent children gratis, he added the interest of £200 yearly, for the master's better subsistence and encouragement. He also bequeathed the interest of £100 to be given annually on his birth-day to the indigent inhabitants of the parish.—*Local Rec.*

May 3.—The corpse of Mrs. Shaftoe, relict of Robert Shaftoe, esq., of Benwell, passed through Newcastle from London, in a mourning hearse, drawn by six horses, and embellished with secutcheons and emblems. The body was deposited in the family vault at Benwell. The now disused cemetery of that village was at that time a place of sepulture, and, in all probability, the chapel, now no more, would then be in existence.—*Ibid.*

June 13.—Died, at Whitehouse, on Gateshead Fell, aged one hundred and five years, Mr. Edward Colvil, father of the countess of Tankerville, and of Susan, the wife of Lionel Allan, esq. She died the 11th of January, 1782, having attained the advanced age of ninety-two, and had outlived her husband, ten brothers and sisters, and buried ten children. Mr. Colvil's remains were interred in All Saints' church, Newcastle, in the burial place belonging to the family. It appears that Colvil's chare, (a lane leading from the Butchers' bank to the Quayside) in the parish of All Saints, was so called in consequence of this family having property there.—*Ibid.*

June 17.—Was married, at Rothbury, in Northumberland, Mr. William Donkin, a considerable farmer of Tosson, in the same county, to Miss Eleanor Shotton, of the same place. The entertainment was very grand, there being provided no less than 120 quarters of lamb, 44 quarters of veal, 20 quarters of mutton, a great quantity of beef, 12 hams, with a suitable number of chickens, &c., which was concluded with eight half-ankers of brandy made into punch, twelve dozens of cyder, a great many gallons of wine, and ninety bushels of malt brewed into beer. The company consisted of 550 ladies and gentlemen, who

were diverted with the music of twenty-five fiddlers and pipers, and the whole was concluded with the utmost unanimity.—*Gent. Mag.*



1750 (June 18).—Died, at his seat at Blagdon, Matthew White, esq., governor of the Merchants' Company in Newcastle, from 1712 to 1739. He distinguished himself highly in 1715, for his defence of the house of Hanover. In 1720 he was sheriff of Northumberland; and was for many years in the commission of the peace for that county. On the 21st his remains were removed from Blagdon to his house in Newcastle, attended by all his tenants, &c. In

the evening, his corpse was interred with great funeral solemnity, in the family vault in All Saints' church, Newcastle.—*Newc. Cour.*

July 17.—There was the most dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, at Darlington, that had ever been remembered by the oldest inhabitant of that place. The spire of the church was rent and shattered from top to bottom. On the north-west side of it, about three yards from the top, the stones were thrown quite out, so as to lay the inside open for a space of about four yards; betwixt this breach and the bottom were several others, but not quite so large, besides, the church itself was so much damaged, that divine service could not be performed in it until the spire was entirely taken down and the church repaired. The spire, which was a very lofty one, was reckoned the highest and most complete piece of that kind of workmanship in the north of England. By the same storm, many houses were shattered and laid open, and people struck, but none killed.—*Hutchinson.*

July 22.—Between eight and nine at night, a strange phenomenon was seen in the air; it appeared first at a considerable distance in the north, passed this place (Newcastle) with great velocity to the south, and seemed to be a body of fire about twenty inches round, and in its motion had a luminous tail about two yards long.—*Newc. Jour.*

July 24.—About eleven o'clock at night there broke out the most dreadful fire ever known in Newcastle. It began at the bottom of an entry in the Close, near Tyne bridge, in a cellar made use of for a warehouse, situated on the side of the river where the buildings stood extremely crowded together, and without any wharf or quay between them and the water, which made all approach for assistance more difficult and dangerous. The most probable occasion of the fire was, an innkeeper's brewhouse and a merchant's cellar lying contiguous on that side where the brewer's copper stood, and the partition being but a few inches thick, the bricks were so intensely heated by the

flame of the furnace then at work, that some combustible goods, placed against the heated wall, took fire, which spread through the cellar, and had burst with violence into the open air before it was discovered. Above this cellar was the dwelling-house and warerooms of an eminent bookseller (Mr. Martin Bryson) who was from home, but his servants very narrowly escaped being burnt, the floors falling into the flames a few minutes after they had quitted their beds. By this time the inhabitants of the town were sufficiently alarmed, and all possible assistance was given. The adjoining houses were unroofed, and chimneys and walls thrown down upon the flames to smother the growing fire. The streets were broke up, and plenty of water obtained, which was incessantly plied by engines and buckets. In the mean time, all the goods and furniture that could be come at were removed, and placed under proper guards to secure them from the evil-disposed. The presence of the magistrates and the officers and soldiers of lord Ancram's regiment, then quartered in Newcastle, was particularly serviceable, but, notwithstanding, about ten dwelling-houses and a great many warehouses, with abundance of goods and furniture, were entirely consumed before eight o'clock the next morning, when its ravages were checked. The damage was computed at £10,000. A liberal subscription was raised for the sufferers, which, on the 18th of March, 1751, was distributed as follows:—To the two children of Mr. Benjamin Heslop, then deceased, £370, Mr. John Shaw and sister, £250, Mr. Martin Bryson, £70, Mr. James Hume, £30, Margaret Young, servant to Mr. Bryson, £30, Jonathan Haswell, a flax-dresser, £20, John Pearson, servant to Mr. Harrison, £20, Mrs. Katherine Jefferson, £8, and Robert Maclean, £8.—*Local Papers.*

1750 (July 25).—The golden arrow was shot for, at Darlington, by fourteen archers, and was won by John Bowes, esq., captain. The hon. Thomas Vane, was lieutenant.—*Ibid.*

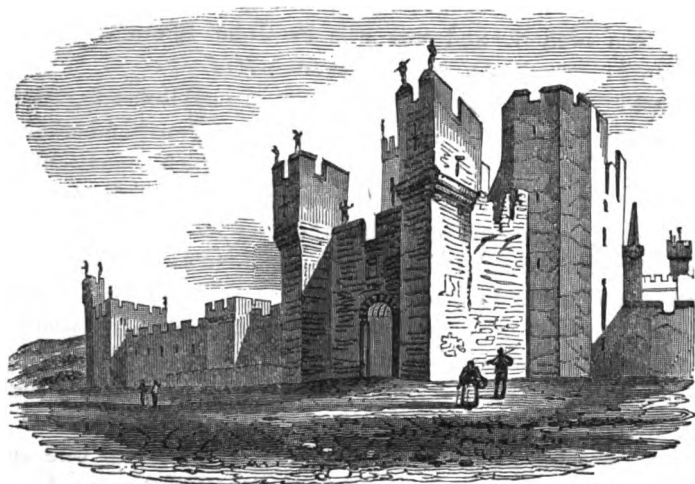
August 18.—A terrible fire broke out at one Robson's, who kept an ale-house near the church in Bellingham, Northumberland. It burnt with great fury for some hours, during which time twenty-seven houses were reduced to ashes, the occupants of which lost most of their effects, some saving only what they had on their backs. During the conflagration, the barn, byers, &c., of John Reed, esq., narrowly escaped, they having taken fire three times. The fire was occasioned by Robson having put some straw into a large chest in which they used to keep their oatmeal, (it being customary before they put down their new meal, to set fire to a wisp of straw, in order to make it sweet, destroy the mites, &c.,) and, being in liquor, lighted it, shut the lid, and came down stairs. Some time after, his wife and he went to bed, not remembering what he had done; they awoke about

twelve o'clock almost stifled with smoke, and he then, but too late, bethought himself of the chest. He endeavoured to go up stairs to fetch down some cash which he recollected they had in the house, but in the attempt, the floor fell in with him, and he perished in the flames. His wife escaped in her shift. William Charlton, of Redesmouth, esq., had twelve houses consumed, notwithstanding which, he generously distributed handsome sums among the unhappy sufferers.

—*Local Papers.*

1750 (August 27).—James Macfidum, alias Macfarland, was executed at Durham, for robbing Robert Hopes, a boy about ten years old. He died penitent, but denied being guilty of the act for which he was about to suffer. The robbery was as follows: on the 8th of the preceding January, the boy on his way to school over Whickham common, passed a man with a woman sitting on his knee, who asked him which way he was going? the lad answered, to school, on which the fellow caught hold of him, carried him into an adjoining hollow and stripped him of all his clothes except his breeches and shoes, threatening to cut his throat if he cried out. As soon as the boy was at liberty, he crept through a hedge and ran to his father, who was at work at a little distance, who alarmed the neighbourhood, pursued and took the fellow. When taken before a magistrate he pretended to be dumb, but the boy reminded him of the speech he made when he threatened his life. This man and woman were part of a gang of Faws, who, for many years, had infested that neighbourhood.—*Ibid.*

August 27.—Alnwick castle, together with all the estates of the



GATEWAY OF ALNWICK CASTLE.

barony, &c., having devolved upon the earl and countess of Northumberland, by the death of Algernon, duke of Somerset; the earl and countess, with a splendid retinue, passed through Newcastle on the above day, on their way to Alnwick. At Felton they were met by a great number of gentlemen and all the principal inhabitants of Alnwick, who accompanied them to the castle, the ancient seat of the family of Percy. Both the town and the neighbourhood was a scene of festivity on the occasion.—*Local Papers.*

1750 (Sept. 2).—A new organ was opened in St. John's church in Newcastle, and a charity sermon was preached by Dr. Thomas Sharp, archdeacon of Northumberland.—*Ibid.*

September 7.—Joseph Butler, bishop of Bristol, was translated to Durham. During the short time which bishop Butler held the see of Durham, he conciliated all hearts. In advanced years, and on the episcopal throne, he retained the same genuine modesty and native sweetness of disposition which had distinguished him in youth and in retirement. While at Durham he removed from the old dining-room of the castle, the tapestry which had graced it from a very early period, and permitted its roof and walls to be decorated with the ornaments which they still retain, and which afford a melancholy proof of the then low state of English architectural knowledge. Bishop Butler's constitution originally delicate, was at the time of his removal to Durham, evidently sinking under the attacks of disease; and he expired at Bath, within the second year of his translation, on the 16th of June, 1752.—*Surtees. Raine.*

November 5.—The organ of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, after having had a swell and other additions, was opened.—*Brand.*

December 19.—Sir Walter Blackett, bart., the right worshipful the mayor, and many other gentlemen and tradesmen of Newcastle met at Mr. Ewbanks, in Pilgrim street, when a very large subscription was made towards establishing a *herring fishery chamber* in that town.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

About this year the town-house or guildhall at Hartlepool was built. The court-room is about 50 feet in length, by 22½ in breadth and 15 in height.—*Hist. of Hartlepool.*

1751 (Jan. 4).—Two curious engines for extinguishing of fire, which had been purchased of Mr. Nuttal, of Long-Acre, London, by the corporation and Trinity-house of Newcastle, were tried on the Sandhill, in that town. That belonging to the corporation discharged 170 gallons of water in a minute, at 160 feet distance. They were tried again on the Sandhill, on the 28th by the maker, Mr. Nuttal.—*Local Papers.*

January 19.—A fire broke out in the mill at Carr's-hill, on Gates-

head Fell, belonging to Mr. Sissons, of Newcastle, which entirely consumed the same. It was supposed to have been set fire to, and a reward was offered for the apprehension of the offenders.—*Local Papers*.

1751 (Feb. 7).—The frost was so intense at Newcastle, that a wherry, in which were two men, was blocked up in the ice in the middle of the Tyne, where the men were obliged to remain and endure the severity of the cold till next morning, when they walked ashore upon the ice.—*Ibid*.

February 9.—A small society of benevolent individuals, on the suggestion of Mr. Richard Lambert, an eminent surgeon, of Newcastle, resolved to establish a general infirmary in that town; and on the above day, a public subscription was commenced which, by the month of June, exhibited an annual revenue of about £1500, and benefactions of near £1000; besides subscriptions towards the intended building of £670. A house was provided in Gallowgate, as a temporary institution for the reception of patients. The 23rd of May was the day fixed for opening this building, on which occasion, a very large number of the governors met at the exchange, and from thence went in procession, accompanied by the magistrates, to St. Nicholas' church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the venerable arch-deacon Sharp, from Luke x. 36, 37. "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go thou and do likewise." After divine service the committee went to the infirmary, when seven in-patients, and four out-patients were admitted after examination by the receiving physicians and surgeons. On the 30th there were sixteen patients in the house, seven of whom were from the county of Durham, two from Northumberland, and seven belonging to Newcastle. On the same day the poor-boxes were opened and £9. 18s. 10d. found therein. In one of them was a shilling enclosed in a piece of paper with the following lines :—

To serve the needy, sick and lame,
This splendid shilling freely came
From one who knows the want of wealth,
And what is more, the want of health.
Beneath this roof may thousands find
The greatest blessing of mankind;
And hence may millions learn to know
That to do good's our end below;
That vice and folly must decay
Ere we can reach eternal day.

September 5th, the right reverend the bishop of Durham, as grand visitor of the infirmary, accompanied by a great number of gentlemen, who were assembled at the anniversary of the Sons of the Clergy, went in procession, to the Forth Banks, where the foundation stone of a new building was laid, amidst the acclamations of a great concourse of people. A plate of copper was deposited in the stone with the following inscription :—"The foundation of this infirmary was laid on the 5th day of September, in the 25th year of the reign of King GEORGE the second, 1751, by the Right Reverend JOSEPH, Lord Bishop of Durham, Grand Visitor." On the reverse, "The Ground was given by the CORPORATION of NEWCASTLE, RALPH SOWERBY, Esq., Mayor, WILLIAM CLAYTON, Esq., Sheriff." The building was completely fitted up, and opened for the reception of patients, Oct. 8th, 1752. It cost upwards of £3000.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1751 (Feb. 12).—About ten at night two sailors, belonging to the Littlejohn of Sunderland, Captain Carr, took the boat to go on board their ship : but next morning, the master could neither find his boat nor these two men, and upon enquiry found reason to believe they had been driven to sea, without meat, oar, boat-hook, or any other thing. Besides, the wind had blown prodigiously all night, and still continued blowing in the same manner at S.W. Upon this Mr. John Bird, hired a sloop, which was sent after them on Wednesday, and cruized out of sight of land till Thursday, but returned without seeing them, when they were given up for lost : but to the great surprise of every one, on Sunday morning, the two men came rowing the boat into Sunderland harbour, having come in a ship from Scarborough, where they had landed on the Friday, without any assistance but their own : The particulars of the voyage follows. The two sailors on going on board, had the boat locked to the ships head rope, she lying about ten or twelve yards from the quay : but a large piece of ice passing by, and the fresh being very strong, drove them past their ship, into the main stream ; which carried them with vast swiftness till they run against the low beacon at the harbour's mouth, where they stopped her for four hours, by getting the boats chains about it : at last the beacon broke away ; they got it into the boat, and hoped to speak to some ships in the roads, but, falling northward they called till they were quite spent, and fell down in the boat. The watch on board one ship answered once ; but afterwards confessed, that they were afraid they were water spirits, as they could see nothing, and they might get power, &c. Daylight coming on, they tied the beacon in the middle with a rope, which was at the end of the boat's chain, and cast it out forward with all the scope they had ; which kept her head to the wind and dulled her speed in driving.

They continued so till two or three o'clock in the afternoon, when they determined to cut the beacon into a mast and yard, and try for Norway, as they had a fair wind. They effected this with a knife, untwisted the piece of rope, rigged the mast and yard, and got up one of the futtock boards in the boat's bottom for a rudder. They now put off their shirts, slit both open, cut off the sleeves, and (one of them having bought needles and a pennyworth of thread, which he had with him) sewed their sides together for a sail, and bent it into the form of a whole mizen, then put her before the wind, and she went at a considerable rate, till after it was dark, when, not knowing their course, they took down their sail and let her drive. They saw some ships but could not come near them. It pleased God, on Thursday morning the wind changed to the north, when they ripped open a pair of trowsers, and increased the bottom of their sail, and put about for land; and before Thursday night they could see the Yorkshire coast, and by continuing their course all night, found themselves near Scarborough on Friday morning, when they took the mast and yard down, which served for oars, and rowed into the harbour without any other help. They got each of them a roasted haddock for breakfast, and declared they were neither hungry or thirsty all the while: they were quite hearty, and went to sea again in their ship the next day.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1751 (February 12).—Mr. Gilchrist, aged 103, was interred at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle. He was born in the reign of king Charles I., consequently he had lived in the reigns of seven monarchs of England, besides Oliver Cromwell's protectorship, and that of his son Richard.—*Local Papers.*

March 20.—On the arrival in Newcastle of the intelligence that his royal highness the prince of Wales (father of king George III.) had died on the above day, all public diversions were put a stop to, the pulpits in the various churches and the mayor's pew were hung with black cloth, and every other token of mourning and respect was exhibited.—*Ibid.*

March 24.—In heating an oven in a gentleman's house, near the new church at Sunderland, the fire took hold of some wood adjoining, when a woman servant went running into the church (being Sunday), calling out fire! fire! on which all the congregation made the best of their way to the door in the utmost confusion, and in their hurry to escape, broke the font, of very curious workmanship, all to pieces.—*Ibid.*

March 26.—The mayor, aldermen, and the other magistrates of Berwick, attended in their robes at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Town-hall and steeple, for a peal of eight bells. When the mayor deposited a piece of gold under the stone, the

healths of the royal family, the representatives in parliament, and success to the building, were drank amidst joyful acclamations.—*Local Papers.*

1751 (April 24).—A fire broke out in a bake-house at the foot of Silver street, Newcastle, known by the name of Freeman's bake-house. The two new engines were there, and played with great success, the fire being prevented from doing much damage.—*Ibid.*

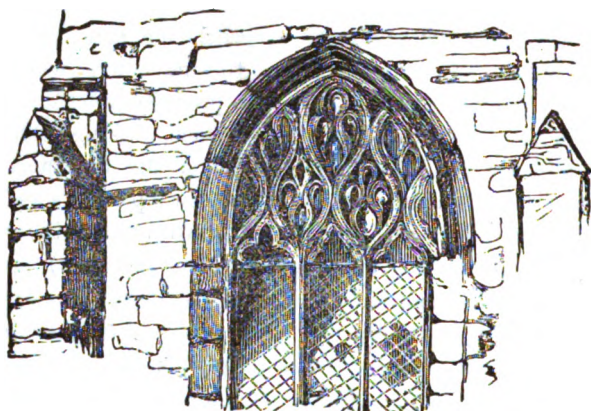
This year an order of common council was made, that the boundaries of the town of Newcastle by land should be perambulated once in three years, and on the 26th of May, the right worshipful Ralph Sowerby, esq., mayor, the recorder, and aldermen, accompanied by a great number of gentlemen, rode the boundaries of this corporation, and were afterwards elegantly entertained in the mayor's chamber at the town hall. The above gentlemen met at the mayor's chamber between eight and nine in the morning, when a cold collation was provided for them. The procession began from the town chambers, along the Close, several men walking before them with axes and spades over their shoulders, the free porters with their halberts, two men on horseback with two panniers each, filled with figs, prunes, &c., (which were thrown among the populace by the town marshal at every boundary stone, &c.) seven sergeants at mace with banners, music, &c. Where boundary houses stood on their march, men were ordered to go over them, and take off bricks, slates, &c., as the town's property; and at a small house at Fenham gate, the mayor and the company were entertained with wine, &c., by William Ord, of Fenham, esq. Many guns were fired at different places, and the bells rang all the day.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

May.—In pulling down the old chapel at Cornhill, in Northumberland, there was found about three feet lower than the old foundation, a coffin of stone, about eight feet long, in which were two urns of coarse pottery, and the shank-bones and skull of a person of great size.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

June 18.—A fire broke out at Darras-hall near Ponteland, in Northumberland, in the bake-house of Mr. Ralph Donkin, which in a few hours consumed the same, his dwelling-house, Mr. Codling's house adjoining, and all the out-houses and furniture belonging to both.—*Local Papers.*

June 28.—The right rev. Joseph Butler, lord bishop of Durham, arrived at his palace in that city. He was met at some distance from the town by the clergy, a great many persons of distinction in that county, and most of the principal inhabitants of that city. July 4, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and sheriff of Newcastle, went to Durham to congratulate his lordship on his arrival, when they were re-

ceived by his lordship in a very courteous manner, and magnificently entertained. July 17, his lordship arrived in Newcastle to hold his primary visitation. His lordship was met on the road by the rev. the vicar and clergy of that place, with the proper officers belonging to the several churches, who attended him to St. Nicholas' church, where, as soon as divine service was ended, his lordship began to confirm. On the following day his lordship held his visitation, and an excellent sermon was preached on the occasion by the rev. T. Turner, A. M., vicar, from the 26th chapter of the Acts, verse 29. After his lordship had remained two days at the mansion-house (being invited by the magistrates), he set out to visit the northern parts of his diocese.—*Local Papers.*



WINDOW IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT OF ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, NEWCASTLE.

1751 (July 20).—Died, at Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Denham, formerly a brewer in that town, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

July.—As sir Henry Grey, bart., was shooting near the Cheviot hills, in Northumberland, he shot a very large eagle which had seized his dog in its talons, and was in the act of carrying it off, when sir Henry put a stop to its flight. The people in that neighbourhood had suffered great damage from this eagle among their flocks, one person lost lambs to the value of £6.—*Gent's. Mag.*

August 21.—Richard Brown, a keelman, was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, for the murder of his daughter, 17 years of age, by throwing her down stairs on the preceding 10th of November. At the gallows he endeavoured to take off the weight of his guilt by alleging he had no intention to take away her life, and that he was so much inebriated at the time he perpetrated this horrid deed, that he could not recollect several barbarous circumstances with which he was charged.—*Local Papers.*

1751 (Aug. 27).—Between ten and eleven o'clock at night, an unfortunate affair happened in the house of David Shield, innkeeper, in Newcastle. Mr. Henry Douglas, who had been a surgeon in the navy, having some words with a sailor, named Edward Holliday, blows ensued, and the former was unluckily killed. At the ensuing assizes Holliday was tried and acquitted.—*Local Papers*.

November 7.—A company was formed in Newcastle for carrying on the whale-fishery in the Greenland seas, Davis' Straits, and seas adjacent.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

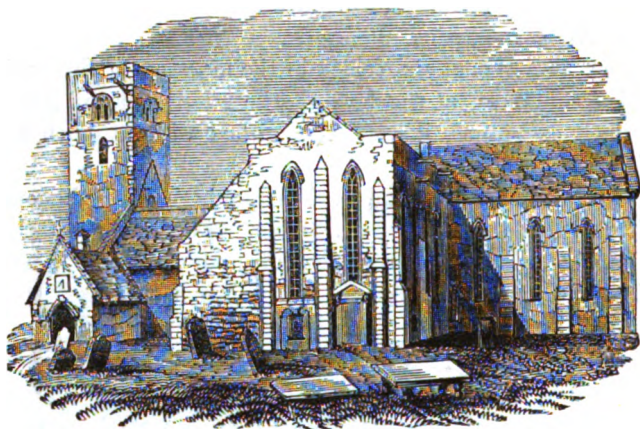
November 27.—About six o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in Humble's buildings, at the head of the Flesh-market, Newcastle, but by timely assistance, it was extinguished without much damage.—*Local Papers*.

1752 (Jan. 5).—Black Heddon, Northumberland, is honoured in being the birth place of the rev. Robert Hall, (father of the celebrated Baptist minister of that name,) and who, it appears, was baptized by the rev. David Fernie, at Juniper Dye-house, Hexhamshire, on the above day.—*J. Potts' MS.*

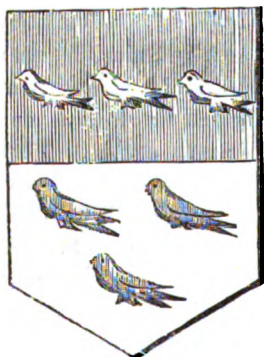
February 7.—The river Tyne was swollen to a prodigious height by a thaw, when, by the impetuosity of the current, and the violence of the wind, all the ships in the harbour at Newcastle were driven from their moorings. Two of the largest stones on the Quay, in which mooring rings were fixed, were torn up, and much other damage done. The noble stone bridge of three arches, built by the munificent bishop Skirlaw, across the Wear, at Shincliffe, near Durham, and which had stood for three centuries and a half without material injury, was undermined by the flood which threw down one of the piers, and occasioned the fall of the two north arches. That river rose higher than it had been known before, and so suddenly, that most of the houses which stood on its banks were filled to the upper stories before the inhabitants had time to quit them. Several garden walls were also thrown down. The river Tees rose to so great a height that incalculable damage was done; in some parts it rose fifteen feet above high water mark. At Croft near Darlington, the turnpike-house was washed down, and about £50. of the road-money lost in the water. At Yarm, the Tees was so high, that it touched the covering of the shambles which stood in the main street; all the shops and warehouses were quite filled with water, and the damage done to the goods was computed at £7,000. By this flood there was a great loss of horses, cattle, &c.—*Local Papers, &c.*

February 7.—The felons in Morpeth gaol, having got their irons filed off, made a bold attempt to escape. They came down stairs in a body, seized the gaoler and turnkey, used them in a bar-

barous manner, and threatened to kill them if they did not deliver up the keys; they likewise used the gaoler's wife and sister very ill, but on their calling out murder, the neighbours came to their assistance, which prevented their escape or doing further mischief. Shortly after, one Peter Brown was committed to gaol for having furnished the felons with files, &c. His brother was transported in 1744, for breaking into Ovingham church.—*Local Papers.*



OVINGHAM CHURCH, NORTHUMBERLAND.



1752 (Feb. 23).—Died at his seat at Lemington, near Alnwick, Nicholas Fenwick, esq.; representative in parliament for the town of Newcastle for many years. He was a most distinguished patron of the rural arts; and, for his great improvements by planting, was honoured with the gold medal of the Society of Arts. His son, Robert Fenwick, who resided at Lemington, was high sheriff of Northumberland in 1753.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

April 13.—Eighteen felons were removed from Morpeth gaol, and put on board the Owners' Goodwill, captain Moorland, in order to be transported to South Carolina, for seven years. Of this number were Robert Armstrong, the ringleader in an attempt to escape from Morpeth gaol on the 7th of the same month, and Peter Brown, who had supplied them with files on that occasion. They were all members of the very numerous gangs of Faws who infested the county of Northumberland, and who were incessantly shop-breaking and plundering. Fourteen of them were advertised as having returned within two

years, and were again lurking about Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*

1752 (April).—Some workmen digging a cellar, &c., near the old castle in Newcastle, found a great number of human bones about seven or eight feet from the surface of the ground. From their quantity, and the manner in which they were lying, it was conjectured that a number of bodies had been buried together in a hole dug for that purpose during some siege of the castle. They also found a stone coffin, and by the remains in it, it was evident that a person of extraordinary size had been deposited there.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

May 6.—About two o'clock in the afternoon, a fire broke out in the west wing of that most magnificent edifice, Seaton Delaval, the seat of George Delaval, esq., and in a short space of time that part of the beautiful structure was destroyed by the conflagration.—*Ibid.*

May 12.—The first market for black cattle and sheep was held at Alnwick, in Northumberland, on this day (Tuesday). Out of an immense number of black cattle and sheep which were there, very few remained unsold. The concourse of people assembled on the occasion was very great.—*Local Papers.*

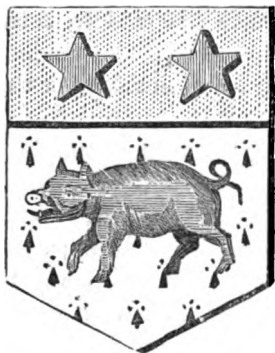
May 15.—A fire broke out in Rock hall, near Alnwick, formerly the seat of — Proctor, esq., but at that time tenanted by some farmers, by which it was entirely consumed, and some of the families escaped with their lives so narrowly, that they saved nothing but the shirts upon their backs.—*Ibid.*

May 23.—About ten o'clock at night, some company went into Mr. Pinkney's, a publican, in the Bigg-market, Newcastle, when words arose between them and Ewan Macdonald, a recruit in general Guise's regiment of Highlanders, then quartered in that town; from words they came to blows, which caused some of the company to leave the room, but Macdonald followed them out, laid hold on one Mr. Robert Parker, a cooper, in the entry of the above house, and wickedly stabbed him in the neck with a knife, in so desperate a manner that he died immediately. When he returned to the house he abused several, and broke another man's arm. A file of musqueteers was sent for, who conducted the murderer to the guard-house, where he was confined till next day, when he was committed to Newgate. The coroner's inquest returned a verdict of *wilful murder*. September 28th, Ewan Macdonald was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, pursuant to his sentence at the assizes. This most unfortunate young man, who was only nineteen years of age, appeared all the time of his confinement deeply affected with a true sense of his guilt, and regretted much the murdered person, whom he declared to have taken no part in the quarrel between him and another man named Parker, and who was also a cooper; but at the gallows his behaviour in

endeavouring to throw the executioner from off the ladder, was unbecoming one just on the brink of eternity; however, as it was generally and justly believed that he had been grossly irritated to the perpetration of the crime for which he suffered, his unhappy end was pitied by every one. His body was taken to the Surgeons' hall,* and there dissected.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1752 (June 4).—Was launched from Headlam's landing, on the Tyne, the *Experiment*, built by the gentlemen of Newcastle, subscribers to the West India trade. October 5, this vessel commanded by captain John Scaife, sailed on her first voyage to Jamaica. June 13, 1753, the *Experiment* arrived in the Tyne from Jamaica, after a passage of eight weeks, bringing a cargo of sugar, rum, pimento, coffee, cotton, mahogany, and lignum vitæ, in return for the commodities and manufactures of Newcastle, which had been sent out.—*Local Papers.*

June 4.—Died at Stanhope, in Weardale, Durham, Ann Myers, in her 106th year. She had her memory perfect to the last, and could read small print without the aid of spectacles until within two years of her death.—*Ibid.*



June 30.—Died at Bath, John Bacon, of Northumberland, esq., F.R.S. and F.S.A., and governor of Bethlehem and Bridewell hospitals, to the former of which he gave, a short time before his death, £100. in South Sea annuities, to begin a foundation for the support of incurables, for whom there was no provision. A few hours before his death, he desired his friends to put him in his coffin, with his best wig on his head, a ruffled shirt, and stone buttons in the sleeves, a small ring on his finger, a laced waist-coat, and a plain coat, with black velvet breeches, a new pair of pumps with stone buckles, and a clean pair of white stockings; that he might be privately interred in the abbey church; and that his servants might support his pall in their liveries, all which was performed.—*Gent's. Mag.*

* It was said that after the body was taken to the Surgeons' Hall, and placed ready for dissection, that the surgeons were called to attend a case at the Infirmary, who, on their return, found Macdonald so far recovered as to be sitting up; he immediately begged for mercy, but a young surgeon not wishing to be disappointed of the dissection, seized a wooden mallet with which he deprived him of life. It was further reported, as the just vengeance of God, that this young man was soon after killed in the stable by his own horse. They used to shew a mallet at the Surgeons' Hall as the identical one used by the surgeon.—*Local Rec.*

1752 (June).—At Chatton, in Northumberland, a Mr. Pratt who had been bitten some time previously by a mad cat, died under the most deplorable circumstances. The cat had been bitten by a mad dog, but being a favourite, was put under confinement by Mr. Pratt, in order to prevent danger, and to preserve her life, if possible; but as he was offering her some meat too incautiously, she suddenly snatched at his fingers, and occasioned this melancholy event.—*Genl's. Mag.*

July 7.—The Newcastle Whale Fishing Company's ship, the Swallow, captain Elliott, which sailed from that port on the 22nd of the preceding March for Greenland, arrived safe in the river Tyne, having had the good fortune to take four whales, to the great joy of the adventurers, and to the general satisfaction of the whole town and neighbourhood, which was demonstrated by the ringing of bells, &c.—*Local Papers.*

July 11.—Seven of the gang of Faws who had been a terror to Rothbury and its neighbourhood, were apprehended and sent to Morpeth gaol, several more were pursued to the mountains, but could not be come at. Various of the goods belonging to the owners of shops which had been broken into at Morpeth, &c. were found in their possession.—*Ibid.*

July 12.—The new chapel at Cornhill was opened for divine service, on which occasion a sermon was preached by the rev. Dr. Sharp, archdeacon of Northumberland, from Ecclesiastes, chap. v. verse 1. "*Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God.*"—*Ibid.*

August 24.—There was a very heavy rain in the neighbourhood of Redesdale, in Northumberland, which continued without intermission for fifty hours. It was driven by a tremendous wind, which caused such land floods as had not been remembered for forty years before. The damage done to the harvest was incalculable. Great quantities of corn were carried down the river Coquet, which, from its swollen state, broke down the new bridge at Weldon Mill. The rivers Tyne and Wear were raised to such a degree, that all the contiguous low grounds were flooded to a great height, so that the standing corn was completely destroyed, and many stooks, together with hay, sheep, swine, &c., were all swept away by the torrent, to the utter ruin of many of the farmers.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

September 2.—The New Style was adopted in Great Britain, by which the day immediately succeeding was called the 13th of that month.

September 2.—The see of Durham was filled by the translation of Richard Trevor, from St. David's. Bishop Trevor justly merited the praise of a sincere friend, a generous patron, and a splendid and mu-

nificent prelate. His lordship died in London, after a long and painful illness, on the 9th of June, 1771.—*Surtees*.

October 18.—Lydia, widow of Robert Smith, mariner, aged 106, was buried at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

November.—Early in this month the workmen employed in making the military road to Carlisle, found a great number of curious Roman coins and medals, in the ruins of the old wall near Heddon. They had been deposited in wooden boxes, which were almost decayed; yet several of the medals were as fresh and fair as if newly struck. Some were of silver, but the most part of copper, and a mixture of coarser metal. Several of the most curious were purchased by the Royal Society. Many interesting Roman remains were also discovered at Benwell, the Condercum of the Romans, about the same period. And on trenching a portion of that station for planting, on the north side of the road to Carlisle, many coins were found, most of which were defaced. Great conduits or sewers were discovered at the depth of about a yard and a half: they were composed of large wrought stones. Several little altars and fragments of inscriptions were turned out on this occasion, amongst which were those represented on this and the succeeding page. The altar No. 1, near eight inches in height, and

No. 1.



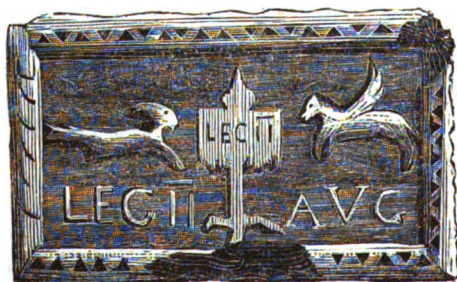
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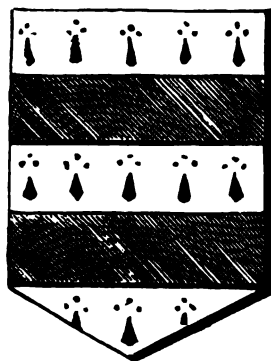
No. 4.



No. 3.



five and a quarter in breadth at its base. No. 2, ten inches and a quarter in height, and about five and a half broad at its base, having the patera and præfericulum on one side, and the sacrificing axe and knife on the other. No. 3, nine inches in height, and at its base five in breadth. No. 4, an oblong square stone about fifteen inches by nine and three quarters, having in the centre a standard inscribed Leg II, with the sea-goat on one side, and the pegasus on the other, the usual symbols of the second legion. The very curious tablet, No. 5, now at the rectory at Ryton, was discovered also in this station. It appears to have been put up anciently in the front of a temple, built here by Titus Agrippa, a præfect, and dedicated to the Matres Campestres and Genius of the First wing of the Spanish Astures. Some part of this inscription has been designedly erased, and the stone broken in two by an accident. These inscriptions were first engraved by Brand, who has given a plan of Condercum, and also of a Roman hypocaust, or sudatory, discovered about 300 yards from the station, to the south west.—*Brand. Hodgson.*



1752 (Dec. 14).—Died, Francis Blake Delaval, of Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, esq. He was son of Edward Delaval, esq., by Mary, daughter of sir Francis Blake, of Ford castle, and was returned member of parliament for Northumberland, on the expulsion of Forster, in 1716. Mr. Delaval had the misfortune to break one of his legs a few days previously, which occasioned his death. He married Rhoda, daughter of Robert Apreice, esq., of Washingly,

Huntingdonshire, and had issue, eight sons and five daughters.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

1752 (Dec. 20).—The right worshipful the mayor, aldermen, and common council, of Newcastle, gave their assent to a request made by Edward Collingwood, of Chirton, esq., for leave to make a dock at the lower end of North Shields, for careening and repairing of ships.
—*Local Papers.*

Close chapel, (Scotch) Newcastle-upon-Tyne, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1758 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

About 297,000 Winchester chaldrons of coals were shipped in the port of Sunderland in the year 1752. The number of ships loaded in that harbour, principally in coals, were, Coasters 3,424; Foreign ports 173—Total 3,597.—*Gents. Mag.*

The custom of cock-throwing, was continued in Newcastle so late as this year.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

In the mayoralty of Mr. Joseph Gray, watchmaker, the roof of the council chamber of the toll booth, in Durham, was raised nearly three feet, and ornamented in stucco, the wainscot painted and a new sashed window put in, with a new fire place; and the pictures of king William III. and bishop Crewe, were cleaned, all at the cost of George Bowes, esq., of Gibside, M.P. for the county, and alderman. Sum expended £72. 9s.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*



1753 (Jan. 24).—Mr. William Maude, a wealthy merchant of Sunderland, having been on business at South Shields, which having executed, he mounted his horse on the evening of the above day to return home, but not arriving, every search was made for him; hedges, ponds, wells, ballast-hills, and the sea banks were examined, even the river Tyne was searched for a mile, but to no purpose. His horse, with saddle and bridle, was found within three hundred yards

of where he had been last seen. His disconsolate widow offered a reward of 50 guineas, his majesty also offered the like sum, and the honourable Henry Vane and George Bowes, esq. offered a further reward of 50 guineas, for the apprehension of the murderer or murderers. March 22d, Mr. Maud's body was found by a country boy, in a runner of water near Boldon, not far from the roadside from Cleadon. The coroner's inquest sat upon the body the next day, and brought in a verdict of *wilful murder by persons to them unknown.*
—*Local Papers.*

January.—Died at Snow hall, near Gainford, a drum horse who was in general carpenters regiment at the battle of Sheriff-muir in

1715, being then 7 years old, where he received a bullet in his neck, which was extracted after his death.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1753 (Feb. 25).—About twelve o'clock at night a terrible fire broke out in Mrs Rutter's malting in Newcastle, which, in two hours, entirely consumed the same, with a considerable quantity of malt therein.—*Local Papers.*

March 14.—Died, Charles, earl of Tankerville, of an apoplectic fit, at the Green Man, on Epping forest, as he was travelling to London. He was succeeded in title and estate by his eldest son Charles, lord Ossulston.—*Ibid.*

March.—Hugh, earl of Northumberland, was constituted lord lieutenant of that county, and of the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne; as also vice admiral of Northumberland and Newcastle, on the death of the earl of Tankerville. May 25th, the same year, his lordship was admitted to a personal freedom of the corporation of Newcastle.—*Brand.*

April 26.—Died, Gilbert Vane, lord Barnard, much advanced in years, succeeded in title and estate of £10,000. per annum, by his son, Henry Vane, esq., one of the lords of the treasury.—*Gent's. Mag.*

May 12.—Died, Margaret Hunter, a maiden lady of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, aged 104 years. During the period of her long life she had drank only two gills of malt liquor; one at the age of 50, and the other at 60, which latter almost deprived her of life.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

May 21.—A very remarkable wedding was solemnized at Bishopwearmouth, between two young persons. All acquaintances and relations on both sides were invited to the nuptials. They set forward to church about half an hour past seven, preceded by three violins and a bagpipe. Seventy couple went hand in hand, all distinguished by blue cockades, besides an innumerable multitude which did not observe such just regularity. The bill of fare for dinner was as follows:—5 bushels of malt brewed for table beer, 10 bushels for ale, 16 quarters of lamb, 8 turkeys, 10 green geese, 8 hams, 4 dozen of hens, 12 ducks, 20 quarters of mutton, 10 quarters of veal, 16 neat's tongues, a quarter of beef roasted whole, 20 stones of beef boiled, 6 bushels of white peas, 80 pounds of butter, 16 pies; the bride's pie was carried between two persons on a hand-barrow to the bake-house; 20 gallons of brandy, 8 dozen of lemons, 7 stones of double refined sugar, 10 bushels of wheat, a hundred weight of tobacco, 6 gross of pipes, tarts, whip-possets, cheese-cakes, and jellies innumerable. All things were carried on with the strictest order and decorum till near eleven o'clock at night, when the young couple were

put to bed, with all the formalities of singing, throwing the stocking, and sack posset.—*Local Papers.*

The following inscriptions, found at Risingham, Northumberland, were published by Lionel Charlton, in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in May 1753. In his letter to the editor, he says, "I found stones with inscriptions on them, scattered abroad everywhere, and lying unregarded, some of which I find Mr. Warburton, who formerly made a visit here, has inscribed into his map; though the greatest part of these now to be seen, were discovered since that time. There are two particularly" (No. 1 a, and b, and No. 2.) "which I could not help taking notice of, which the country people told me were found about two years ago, standing upon pedestals, and are remarkable for the neatness of the work upon them." These altars were at Woodburn in the above year, but it is not known where they now are. "It is plain" says the rev. John Hodgson, "that they are dedications to Jupiter, by two tribunes of the first cohort of the Vangiones, viz. by Emilius Æmilianus, and Julius Victor." But "it is very remarkable that neither Samuel Gale, nor any of the antiquaries, from his to the present time (so far as we have been able to observe,) have ventured to hazard a reading of those curious inscriptions."

No. 1 a.



No. 1 b.



No. 2.



CHAPTER III.



IN the month of June, 1753, mention occurs of a machine, invented by Michael Menzies, esq., (for which he had obtained an act of parliament to secure the property thereof to himself,) by which coals were drawn up, not by the strength of horses or of men, but by the descent of a bucket full of water, of a weight superior to that of the coals drawn up, lifting a corf of above 600lb. weight out of a pit fifty fathoms deep, in two minutes. It is mentioned as then going at Chaters Haugh, in the county of Durham, a colliery belonging to William Peareth, esq. The water let down for drawing up the coals, was raised and discharged by the fire engine.—*New. Gen. Mag.*

June 25.—This day (Monday) the right worshipful Henry Partis, esq., mayor of Newcastle, gave an elegant entertainment at the mansion-house to the right hon. the earl of Northumberland, Lord Ravensworth, George Bowes, esq., and several other gentlemen, after which they went to the town's court, and from thence accompanied the mayor to the moor, preceded by the proper officers, with the king's purse of 100 guineas to be run for on Newcastle race ground. It was won by a bay horse named Cato, belonging to George Bowes, esq., who generously presented the prize to the corporation, for the purpose of purchasing a piece of plate for the mansion-house, in remembrance of his majesty's grace and favour. This being the first king's plate run for at Newcastle, it was computed that there were not less than 50,000 persons present. The piece of plate purchased, was a silver cup with a suitable inscription.—*Brand.*

July.—A fine portrait, painted in oil, of Dr. Benson, bishop of Gloucester, was presented by a subscriber to the Infirmary at Newcastle, to be placed in the committee-room of that building.—*Loc. Rec.*

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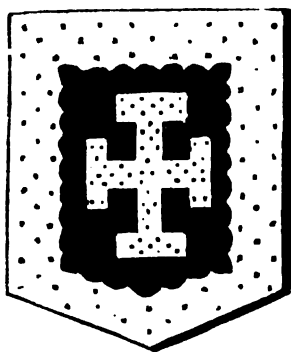
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1753 (July 31).—Died, at his seat at Blackwell-Grange, near Darlington, George Allan, esq., a gentleman universally respected. On the 5th of August following, his remains were deposited in the family vault in Darlington church; the pall being supported by the duke of Cleveland, Lord Darlington, the hon. Thomas Vane, Capt. Milbanke, Mr. Carr, Mr. Bendlowes, Mr. Bland, and Mr. Whitley.—*Local Papers*.

August.—A farmers daughter, living about two miles from the city of Durham, who had brought up a bull so gentle as to be fed out of her hands, went to drive him out of the field; he ran to fawn upon her, licking her face, and threw her down several times, tore her breast with his horn, and at last laid down upon her. Her mother thinking she stayed long went to seek her, and found the bull lying upon her with the greater part of her arm in his mouth: as soon as he saw her coming, he got up and walked very quietly away; but the young woman was bruised in a miserable manner, and some of her ribs were broken.—*Gents. Mag.*

August 20.—Died at his seat at Norton, near Stockton, Jeremiah Moore, esq., aged 57. He was the last of his family, and had in the former part of his life suffered extreme hardships through the cruelty of his eldest brother, by whose means he was carried into Turkish slavery, and, at the time of his brother's death, was a common seaman in the navy, having been pressed in the Mediterranean, after he had made his escape from the Turks. As he had experienced ill fortune, when he came to his estate he converted it all into money and settled in the north, exercising acts of goodness to all his poor neighbours, to whom he left largely. Having no relations, he left to six gentlemen who had been kind to him in his adversity, £1,500. each, and to his housekeeper, Mrs. Ann Kendall, whom he made his executrix and residuary legatee, £3,000. in trust for her son. All the legatees were to receive their respective legacies at his house at Norton, on the first day of the following March, over a large bowl of punch, and they were yearly to commemorate that day as long as they lived, it being the anniversary of the day on which he escaped from slavery.—*Ibid.*

August 25.—A fire broke out in the dwelling house of Mr. Thomas Forster, merchant, in a village near Haydon-bridge, which burnt with such fierceness, that in a short time it consumed five or six dwelling houses, besides out-houses. Two or three days after the fire, Forster,

having been suspected as the incendiary, cut his throat so that he died immediately.—*Local Rec.*

1753 (Aug.).—At the assizes in Newcastle, for the county of Northumberland, Job Lawson, innkeeper, John Walker, drover, and William Hall, schoolmaster, received sentence of death for committing a rape on the body of Elizabeth Hall, at Elsdon, by which cruel act she died in a few months. They were respited from time to time. January 9th, 1754, a general pardon arrived in Newcastle by express.—*Ibid.*

September 30.—Two young men went to the house of Mr. Moncaster, dyer, in Darlington, and after knocking at his door, asked Mr. Moncaster if his daughter was within, with other enquiries respecting her, and being denied admittance, they forced open the door, and went into the house, on which a scuffle ensued, in which Mr. Moncaster was so inhumanly used and bruised by strokes with their whips, &c., that he died within an hour after.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

October 4.—Sir Walter Blackett, bart., one of the aldermen, and representative in parliament for Newcastle, having informed the mayor, aldermen, and common council of that town of the intentions of Thos. Davison of Ferry hill, esq., and his sisters, of founding a hospital for maintaining six poor maiden women, the expence of which would be £1,200; at the same time sir Walter offered the like sum to maintain six poor men: upon which the corporation came to a resolution to be at the charge of the building, and to apply the interest of the above sums for the maintenance of the twelve poor persons mentioned.—*Ibid.*

December 13.—As William Luckily, at Holy Island, an old man upwards of 80, was suppering his horses, the candle accidentally fell among the litter, which immediately taking fire, the stable was presently in a flame, and the wind blowing strong from the east, the houses being thatched and the lofts full of hay, it broke out in an instant, and spread with such fury, that some of the people that were gone to bed, narrowly escaped in their shirts; and, notwithstanding the utmost assistance that could be made, in a very short time it consumed other three dwelling houses, with almost every thing therein, as well their wearing apparel as furniture, before it could be stopped; the sufferers, who were the said William Luckily, his son and daughter, Mary Morton, widow, and Thomas Watson, all people in reputable circumstances, were thereby reduced to absolute want.—*Local Papers.*

December 17.—Died, Mr. William Archer, an eminent woollen draper in Durham. He had been bit by a favourite greyhound, about four months previously, but was not to be persuaded he was in danger, and took no precautions against the infection. He felt no symptoms till the Sunday before his death, at church, where he was seized

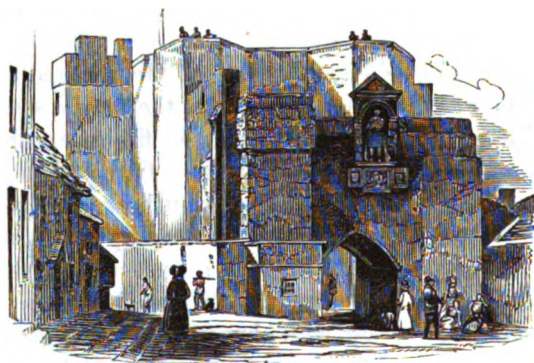
with an acute pain in his eye, and died in a most deplorable condition.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1753 (Dec.).—Died at Long Benton, near Newcastle, Margaret Rochester, aged 107 years. She had lived all her life, in that village, and retained her senses to the last.—*Local Papers.*

1754 (Jan. 1).—Mr. Joshua Appleby, of Durham, chemist, discovered a method to make sea water fresh and wholesome. It was, on a reference from the admiralty, thoroughly examined and approved of by the college of physicians and the commissioners for victualling the navy, in consequence of which the lords of the admiralty ordered the process to be published, that so useful a discovery might be universally known. Mr. Appleby had the assurance of a bountiful reward on the meeting of parliament, but did not live to obtain it. He died on the 9th of March, 1754.—*Gent's. Mag.*

The beginning of this month a ship was burnt in the Tees between Stockton and the mouth of that river. It was occasioned by the carelessness of a boy, who, after having made a fire in the cabin, went on shore to amuse himself.—*Local Papers.*

January 11.—The following prisoners made their escape from the gaol of Newcastle, viz.:—Henry Faulkner, alias Sharp; William Darby; Stephen Cock, alias Johnson; and George Drew. They had been furnished with implements which enabled them to break the prison.—*Ibid.*



GAOL OF NEWGATE, NEWCASTLE, NORTH FRONT.

About the beginning of this year, that pleasing and ingenious writer, Dr. Oliver Goldsmith, at that time studying the profession of physic in the university of Edinburgh, having involved himself in unexpected difficulties, by becoming bond for a sum of money due from a fellow student, was obliged precipitately to leave Scotland. A few days afterwards he arrived in Sunderland, where he was arrested; but his case being made known to Mr. Laughline Maclane and Dr.

Sleigh, he was soon delivered from the hands of the bailiff, and took his passage on board a vessel to Rotterdam, when, after a short stay, he proceeded to Brussels, and shortly afterwards made a tour of a great part of Europe on foot.—*Mackenzie's Dur.*

1754 (Feb. 7).—Was rung, at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, by the young society of ringers, 2520 changes of bob triples, in one hour and thirty-six minutes, being half the complete peal, which had never been performed there before, it being thought impossible for any society of ringers to complete the whole peal on these bells, by reason of the bad hanging.—*Local Papers.*

March 18.—Died in Hornsby's chare, Newcastle, Margaret Turnbull, in the 116th year of her age. She retained her faculties to the last, and until within four years of her death, could read small print without spectacles. She remembered the battle of Bothwell-bridge and various others, and had seen king Charles I. several times when a prisoner in Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

April 11.—As the ringers were about half way through a peal of grandsire triples on the bells of St. Nicholas', in Newcastle, the great bell unfortunately cracked, by which it was rendered useless. It was cast in the year 1622, and weighed 33 cwt. September 25th, this bell was taken down for the purpose of sending to London to be recast. When weighed at the high crane, it was found to be 32cwt. 3qrs. and 14lb. good. December 20th, the new bell was landed on the quay. It weighed 36 cwt.—*Ibid.*

June 3.—The workmen employed in Mr. Henry Pearce's woollen-cloth manufactory, at Gateshead, went in procession from that place to their employer's house, in Newcastle, each displaying the branch he was employed in. viz:—First, the men sorting wool, then followed the scrivener, the shearmen, the weaver, the dyer, and the boys making brushes, carrying two white rods in their hands, with music playing. The exhibition gave great satisfaction to all lovers of art and industry. This public parade was continued for many years.—*Ibid.*

June 29.—The following *challenge* appeared in the Newcastle Journal, viz:—"I take the liberty after this publick manner, to acquaint the country, that Peter Ditchburn, of Mainsforth, in the county of Durham, will throw the long bowls, a pound and a-half weight, leap, and pitch the bang with any man in England, for ten or twenty pounds, and meet them at any place within twenty miles of Mainsforth aforesaid."

July 6, Saturday.—The wife of Mr. Ralph Bage, a farmer at Thornaby, near Stockton, was torn to pieces in a field by their own bull.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 29.—The hospitals in the Manor Chare, Newcastle, for ac-

commodating six poor widows of clergymen and merchants, six poor old batchelors, and six poor unmarried women, were commenced building. The first edifice (Mrs. Davison's for widows of clergymen and merchants) was built by the corporation in 1725, but that body being appointed patrons of this charity, as also of the hospitals of Sir Walter Blackett, and Mr. Davison, a suite of apartments for the three institutions was erected. The foundation stone was laid by the right worshipful Henry Eden, esq., mayor, in the presence of a great number of gentlemen. The magistrates, in order to keep the above sums entire for the use before signified, undertook the charge of the building at the expense of the corporation. The workmen were very liberally regaled.—*Local Papers*.

1754 (Aug. 19).—Dorothy Catinby, of Love lane, on the Quay, Newcastle, was executed on the town-moor there, for the murder of her bastard child. She behaved in a very penitent manner, but persisted to the last that she did not murder her child. The body, after hanging the usual time, was taken to the Surgeons' hall, where it was dissected, and lectured upon by Mr. Hallowell, Mr. Stodart, Mr. Lambert, and Mr. Gibson, surgeons. Dorothy Catinby, who was a widow, left three children by her lawful husband, two sons and a daughter. The sons, it was said, after their mother's ignominious end, drowned themselves, and the daughter left her service in Newcastle, and went to a remote part of the kingdom, where she might live without reproach.—*Local Rec.*

August 24.—A woman named Elizabeth Rochester made her escape from Durham gaol. She was one of a gang of Faws, or strolling depredators, who infested the northern counties at this period.—*Local Papers*.

September 25.—The great bell of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, was sent to London, to be recast. The old bell was taken in exchange at 10d. per pound, which amounted to £153. The new bell of thirty-six cwt. was charged 1s. 1d. per pound, amounting to £218. 8s. making the difference in exchange £65. 8s. The new bell was rung for the first time on the first of January, 1755.—*Ibid.*

September 29.—An adder of prodigious size hid itself in the clefts of a rock, near the sea, not far from Haggerston, Northumberland, it leaped near seven yards at one leap. Great encouragement was offered for killing it.—*Gent's. Mag.*

October 14.—William Weatherburn, pitman, belonging to Heaton, was married at All Saints' church, in Newcastle, to Elizabeth Oswald, of Gallowgate. At the celebration of this marriage, there was the greatest concourse of people ever known on a like occasion. There were five or six thousand at church and in the church-yard.

The bride and bridegroom having invited their friends in the country, a great number attended them to church, and being mostly mounted double, or a man and a woman upon a horse, made a very grotesque appearance in their parade through the streets. The women and the horses were literally covered with ribbons. The reader will here be reminded of the scenes delineated in "*The Collier's Wedding*" by Edward Chicken. There are no such doings among the colliers now a-days.—*Local Rec.*

1754 (Oct. 18).—The chapel and burial ground at the Infirmary, Newcastle, were consecrated by the bishop of Durham. An excellent sermon was preached there on the occasion by the rev. Mr. Dockwray, jun., from Psalm ii. verse 2. The chapel was consecrated by the name of St. Luke. Mrs. Byne made a present of a silver flagon for the use of this chapel, and lady Musgrave presented to the same chapel two pieces of silver plate, being a legacy left by Mrs. Hilton. This lady also presented an altar cloth and cushion, being the legacy left to St. John's church, in Newcastle, by Mrs. Hilton.—*Brand.*

October 25.—Mr. Christopher Allison, merchant, was appointed conservator of the Scale, or Kale cross, and butter market in Newcastle. This cross stood on the north side of the Lork-Burn, near the Sand-hill. Gray, in his *Chorographia*, describes it as a "fair one, with columns of hewn stone, covered with lead, where is sold milk, eggs, butter, &c." In 1319 and 1360 it is called *Cale-Cross*, and in 1653 *Keale-Cross*, terms obtained from having broth or Kale wort, an antient ingredient for making broth, sold at it.—*Pict. of Newc. &c.*

This year, the hall in the city of Durham, where the elections and public meetings are held, was rebuilt in its present state by Henry Lambton and John Tempest, esqrs., then representatives for that city.—*Surtees.*

1755 (Jan. 9).—A fire broke out in a farm-house at Bedlington-park, tenanted by Mr. Thomas Embleton, by which it was entirely consumed, with his furniture and part of his cattle, which reduced him almost to beggary.—*Local Papers.*

January 9.—About noon, died the rev. Mr. Munton, A. M. curate of St. Andrew's and second master of the free grammar school in Newcastle, both which offices he discharged with the greatest reputation, and was no less esteemed and beloved in private life, than he was honoured and revered in his public character: and as in both he was eminently distinguished for many accomplishments and virtues, the loss which society sustained in so useful and valuable a member was generally deplored.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

February 6.—A smart press for seamen, broke out at Shields, when about 60 or 70 able hands were taken by the Peggy sloop of

war: and on the 10th, the volunteer drum, offering his majesty's bounty of £3. a man, was beat through Newcastle, inviting all gentlemen seamen to enter into his majesty's service, the like not known there for many years before; several had enlisted.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1755 (Feb. 28).—As Mr. Dawson, a sergeant-at-mace, of Newcastle, was riding at night through the Flesh-market in that town, his under jaw was unfortunately caught by a butcher's hook, and the horse going from under him, left him hanging a considerable time. A man coming up, procured immediate assistance, and got him off. He was dreadfully wounded but recovered.—*Local Papers.*

April 10.—A complete peal of bob triples, consisting of 5,040 changes was rung in three hours, thirteen minutes, and a quarter, on the bells of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle. The above number of changes had not been rung there before, on account of the bad hanging of the bells. The magistrates finding the deficiency, sent for Mr. William Lawrence, a noted bell hanger of London, who hung them so effectually, that the peal was rung through with the greatest ease, considering the weight of the tenor bell, which had recently been recast.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

April 20.—Robert Watson, artist and engineer, was the son of Joseph Watson, a member of the free porters' company in Newcastle, where Robert was born on the above day. At an early age he evinced such a fondness for drawing, that, after his education was finished, his parents apprenticed him to a coach painter. Fortunately for him, his master's misfortunes soon set him at liberty from a situation so ill suited to the sublimity of his genius; and leaving his native town, he went to London, where he became an industrious student in the royal academy. In 1778 he obtained the gold pallet from the society for the encouragement of arts, for the best historical drawing. In 1780, he published under the title of "*An Anticipation of the Exhibition of the Royal Academy*," a critique on the best performances of our most celebrated artists, and which displays ample proof of the versatility of his genius. The talents he displayed in this work procured him powerful patronage. During one of his annual visits to Newcastle, he happened to read Drs. Price and Priestley's friendly controversy on Materialism, which gave rise to his "*Essay on the Nature and Existence of the Material World*." The Monthly Reviewers bestowed great praise on this work. Shortly after this, he accepted a proposal made to him, to go to India in the capacity of an engineer, and where he arrived in 1783, in time to procrastinate the defence of Fort Osna-burgh, for the garrison of which he obtained very honourable terms of capitulation, when he was seized with a fever, which terminated his existence in the 28th year of his age. On quitting England, he left a

tragedy in the hands of the managers of one of the London theatres, who, on their part, promised to bring it out as speedily as possible, but all the efforts of his friends, after his death, to recover the MS. proved unavailing. The large wood cut of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, engraved by Mr. Charlton Nesbit, and for which he received a silver pallet from the society of arts, (*see May 27, 1798*), shews the house, with wooden posts in front of it, where Robert Watson's mother made and sold sausages for a livelihood in the latter part of her life. The female, throwing out water from a pail, is said to represent Mrs. Watson.—*Local Rec.*

1755 (April 21).—This morning early several claps of thunder were heard in the county of Durham, some of which being louder than were remembered for a long time passed, greatly terrified many people there. They were accompanied with an almost continuous stream of lightning, and with but little rain. Some of the waggon-men on the Derwent waggon-way, had the hay under their arms set on fire by the lightning; and several of the horses' manes were singed, without their receiving any other damage.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

June 12.—Above 2,200 salmon were sold in the market at Newcastle, which were all taken that morning and the tide before in the river Tyne above the bridge; so great a quantity had not been taken in two tides for eighteen years previously.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

June.—As some labourers were digging for stones at Twizell, for the use of the turnpike road leading from Cornhill to Berwick, they found a stone coffin containing a human skeleton of an immense size. The skull was very large, and all the teeth were quite fresh and entire. There were several other bones in the coffin.—*Local Papers.*

July 16.—This day all the debtors in Newcastle gaol, except Alexander Walker, whose debt amounted to above £500. were (by virtue of his majesty's act of insolvency) discharged from their confinement.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

August 22.—Notes were first issued from the bank established in Newcastle, Dec. 1. the same year, notice was given "that the Newcastle bank" would be opened on that day "at the house, late Mr. Robinson's, in Pilgrim street, where all business in the banking and exchange way would be transacted as in London." This old and respectable establishment has recently been incorporated with the Northumberland and Durham District Bank.—*Local Papers.*

August.—The four old bells in Darlington church, were recast, and two new ones added. They were hung and tuned by Mr. James Harrison, from Barrow, in Lincolnshire. Four of these bells were cast anew in 178—, and cost the parishioners £188, 9s. 7½d. The weight of the six is 58cwt. 1qr. The church, which is dedicated to



DARLINGTON FROM THE EAST.

St. Cuthbert, is in the form of a cross, with a tower and spire rising from the centre. It has frequently undergone repair, and is kept in good order, though the effect of the interior is injured by the disposition of the pews and galleries. It forms the principal ornament of the town, and stands at the south-west-angle of the market place.—*Mackenzie's Dur. &c.*

1755 (Sep. 29).—Died, at the Old Town, near Elsdon, in Northumberland, Mr. Matthew Reed, aged 104 years. During the last thirty years of his life he was much afflicted with the rheumatism, for which he tried the hot baths and obtained some relief, but what was very remarkable, he used frequently during the last ten years of his life, even in the most extreme frost, to bathe in a small rivulet on his own estate. He enjoyed all his faculties to the last. On Mr. Reed's tomb-stone, his age is marked 10010! intended, no doubt, for 110 years.—*Local Records, &c.*

October 10.—A terrible fire broke out in a barn, near Boldon, in the county of Durham, belonging to Mr. Brunton, which entirely consumed the same, with the corn and hay-stacks, &c. adjoining.—*Local Papers.*

1755 (Oct. 16).—The first number of a weekly newspaper, called “The Newcastle Intelligencer,” was published this day, (Wednesday), by William Cuthbert and Company, at the printing-house, in the Custom-house entry, Quay-side, Newcastle. It was a small folio, with three columns on each page. From an inspection of some numbers of this journal in the possession of Mr. Thomas Bell, land surveyor, it appears to have been continued between two and three years, but from the few advertisements contained in any of the numbers, it may be inferred that it met with only partial success. (*Local Rec.*) The doorway seen on the extreme right of the building represented in the annexed cut, is the entrance to the old Custom-house. (1842)



November 25.—A keel, belonging to alderman Ridley, being made fast to a ship in the harbour at Shields, was, by the ship's unmooring at the ebb tide, taken away to sea, and the men being all asleep in the hold, were drowned. The keel was cast upon the Herd sand next morning with its bottom uppermost.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

November 25.—There was constituted at Sunderland, a regular lodge of free and accepted masons, by virtue of a deputation for that purpose directed to Mr. James Smithson, jun., provincial, from the earl of Caernarvon, grand master; on which occasion an excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Mr. Barwise, of Dalton, one of the fraternity, who, with the rest of the brethren, in proper costume, went in procession to church. This lodge when first constituted, was No. 207, though now, from different intermediate erasements, it is No. 146.—*Local Papers.*

1755 (Dec.).—In the first week of this month, for the encouragement of the brethren of the bridle, several workmen were employed in levelling and ditching the low side of the town moor next the town of Newcastle, in order to make it as good and dry as possible against the next races; it was also to be railed around and no horses, except those booked, were to be allowed to run thereon.—*New. Gen. Mag.*

December 19.—A fire broke out at Whitehouse, near Morpeth, which consumed eight cows and one horse.—*Local Papers.*

From the time of Elizabeth for a long succession of years, the earls of Northumberland fell upon "evil days and evil tongues" and Alnwick castle suffered so greatly from neglect and decay, that when the first duke and duchess of Northumberland began the work of restoring it, in 1755, not only its walls and towers were in a ruinous state; but there was scarcely a habitable apartment within its circuit. Under their auspices, however, it soon reappeared in its antient form; but in the internal arrangement of its apartments "adapted to the uses of a modern residence." For "in this arduous undertaking the antient appearance was scrupulously regarded, and in no instance has the foundation, shape, or symmetry of the keep undergone the slightest alteration. In the outer court, a building called the exchequer, and in the middle court, a chapel and a considerable range of domestic offices, were of necessity removed. They were excrescences on the original plan which they encumbered and obscured. An apartment therefore, in the principal suit, was allotted for the chapel: and a more secure state of society permitted the transposition of the offices to the exterior face of the southern wall."—*Castles of the Eng. Border.*

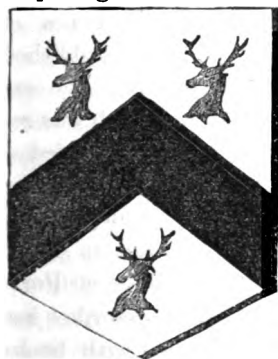
1756 (Jan. 13).—In the burial register of Jarrow church, under this date, occurs "Francis Heron, king of the Faws."—*Chron. Mir.*

January 18.—Died, at Ovington, in Northumberland, Isabella Simpson, aged 109 years. She retained all her senses to the last except her sight, which she lost several years before her death. She commonly spun lint or tow on the rock, until the last six years of her life, and was a remarkable pattern of industry.—*Local Papers.*

January 30.—A labouring man in ditching and scouring a hedge belonging to Mr. George Smith, of Burnhall, found upon Elvet moor, 170 pieces of silver coin of Edward III. of England, and Robert II. and David, kings of Scotland, inclosed in a pot or small urn. He carried them to a silversmith in Durham, where they were claimed and had by the dean and chapter as treasure trove, found within their manor of Elvet. Upon a division of this money, the dean had ten pieces allotted to him, and each of the prebendaries five; other of the pieces were deposited in the library, and such of them whose inscriptions and figures were effaced, were sold. The value of the

whole was between four and five pounds. It is very probable that this money had been deposited in this place at or about the time of the battle of Neville's cross, which was fought not far from it in 1346. The urn and a few of the coins are still preserved in the library.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

1756 (Feb. 10).—One of the serjeants-at-mace of Newcastle, having an execution against Charles Cowling, coach-maker, without Pilgrim Street gate, went to apprehend him in his shop, but on taking him away, his son-in-law, Richard Curtis, rescued him. The officer then applied to the mayor for an escape warrant, and when he went back found the said Cowling and his son had ensconced themselves in the shop and threatened to knock down the first man that forced open the door. On hearing this the officer got more assistance and broke open the shop, on which a scuffle ensued, and one of the baliffs received a mortal wound with an axe, of which he died in a few hours; several others were also wounded, but the father and son were apprehended. At the assizes Curtis received sentence of death. Cowling was acquitted. Curtis was respited from time to time until the opinion of the judges was taken, ten of whom thought him guilty of murder, but in 1757, he was ordered to be transported for life. He died on his passage to America.—*New. Gen. Mag., &c.*



February 19.—Died, at Westerhaugh, in Northumberland, Henry Collingwood, esq., aged 103. He was greatly beloved in his neighbourhood, and retained his senses to the last. His pall was supported by eight gentlemen, (the first five were his great great nephews), viz.:—William Fenwick, John Fenwick, William Swinburne, Ralph Soulsby, Edward Ward, Henry Ogle, esqrs., Mr. Thomas Forster, and Mr. Charlton. Twelve of his children and grand children attended as mourners.—*Local Rec.*

February 19.—Several very curious fireworks were played off from the castle of Newcastle, in honour of the marriage of the right hon. Augustus, earl of Euston, grandson and heir-apparent to the duke of Grafton, to the hon. Miss Liddell, daughter of lord Ravensworth, which took place in London, on the 29th of the preceding month.—*Local Papers.*

March 22.—The heart and bowels of the right honourable James earl of Wemys, were buried in Norton church, in the county of Durham. The remains were buried with his ancestors at Wemys Castle, in Scotland, on the 8th of April.—*Norton Reg.*

1756 (May 22).—War was proclaimed against France, at Newcastle, by the sheriff's sergeant, at the usual places, viz. :—on the Sandhill, the Flesh-market, and the White cross, accompanied by the magistrates in their robes. The crowd was very numerous, who expressed their assent by loud huzzas and other loyal ejaculations.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

At this time, the hottest press for seamen was made at Shields, and in the river Tyne, that had been known during the war. Several hundreds of men were taken, and no regard paid to protections.—*Ibid.*



May 30.—Died, Mrs. Elizabeth Elstob, aged 73, sister of William Elstob (*see March 3, 1715*), and born at Newcastle. This lady, distinguished as a Saxon scholar, is said to have owed the rudiments of her very extraordinary learning to her mother, whom, however, she lost at eight years of age. She accompanied her brother to Oxford, and was the companion of all his severe studies. She removed with him to London, and, in 1709, printed an English translation, together with

her brother's Homily of St. Gregory. She also assisted him in an intended edition of Gregory's Pastoral. By Dr. Hickeys' advice she next undertook an edition of the Saxon Homilies; a few of these only were printed at Oxford in folio. In 1715, she published a Saxon grammar, for which chief justice Parker, defrayed the expence of the types. After her brother's death Mrs. Elstob was reduced to teach a school at Evesham. She afterwards obtained a pension of twenty guineas from queen Caroline, which ceased with her majesty's death, and Mrs. Elstob was again plunged into difficulties. Her latter days, however, were easy and comfortable, for, in 1739, she found a residence in the family of the duchess-dowager of Portland, and continued there till her death. Rowe Mores describes her in her old age, in her chamber at Bulstrode, surrounded with books and dirt. But, clean or dirty, Mrs. Elstob was a most extraordinary woman, the first and last, as far as we know, of her sex who was a Saxon scholar; and those who wish to see her in her bright days, when she was the literary toast of Dr. Hudson and the Oxonians, may gaze on her countenance in the initial G. of the English Saxon Homily on the day of St. Gregory.—*Surtees.*

1756 (June 4).—Friday, the wind in the S. W. quarter, a very black cloud was observed to the northward of Hexham, which appeared to dart down a small gleam of fire upon a farm-house belonging to Lancelot Allgood, esq.; the house, however, and every one in it, were found quite safe and unhurt, though much terrified. But an

ash tree of five feet four inches in circumference, that grew close by the house was all shaken and split, from the ground to the division of the branches; most of the bark and one small piece of wood thrown at a distance all round, but none of the boughs hurt. A smaller tree of the same kind grew so near it, that its boughs surrounded the trunk of the larger one, and were not in the least damaged. The next forenoon, there were a great many loud claps of thunder, accompanied by much rain and hail, which swelled the river Tyne considerably; the wind veering about to almost every point of the compass, betwixt twelve and one o'clock, a remarkable flash of lightning fell upon the house of Thomas Lightfoot, situated near the north Tyne, at Chollerford-bridge. A chimney at the north end was struck down, and the gable, in which it was built, split as with a wedge separating the two faces of it, almost as low as the side wall; in the second story, a large hole was broke through the chimney into a bed chamber. The side wall facing to the west, was broke through near the ground, about three yards south of the chimney above-mentioned, and the force appeared to have acted all up the inside of this wall in a direct line for about a yard in breadth to the top of the house; two breadths of paper hangings were torn off in the parlour, and several holes broke in the plaster, but the nails which had fixed the paper were left; in the south partition of the same room, opposite to the chimney there was a hole about half through, as if made with a musket ball. A large chest of drawers stood against the side wall in the bed chamber above the parlour, the back of which was torn in pieces, the locks broke off and the whole case thrown down, the bed curtains were much singed, but no metal of any kind melted; the glass in the room, the garret above it, and the parlour below was all shivered and thrown to a great distance from the house, but none of it fell within. The kitchen, where eight persons were sitting, is south from the parlour, and a passage and staircase, between them, all the people were struck down and thrown in contrary directions to the opposite sides of the room, but none of them received any harm further than a few slight bruises, from the fall, nor could they give any account of the stroke. They said that just before it happened, all was quite dark, and they heard a great noise like the report of a cannon, and were struck senseless, upon their recovery they found a sulphurous smell. The stable is at the north end of the house, the roof of which was broke in by the fall of the chimney, and three horses turned quite upon their backs in the stalls, one man was thrown upon a horse, and another turnd round upon his feet. A man who was at a short distance in the fields, saw the appearance of two sheets of fire, descending upon the house, but felt nothing.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1756 (July 5).—The *Resolution* arrived at Newcastle from Greenland with six large whales, three middling, and six small ones. The like cargo, it was said, never before came to England in one ship. The Greenland ships in general were, this year, amazingly successful.—*Gent's Mag.*

July 26.—The populace in Newcastle *honoured* admiral Byng by an effigy, set on an ass, decorated with appropriate labels, &c., preceded by a person on a mule, with a white standard, on which was inscribed this motto:—"Oh, back your sails for God's sake, a shot may hit the ship." Having paraded the town, the procession halted at the carrion burning place in the flesh-market, where a gallows was erected, on which, after being severely treated, he was hung, the prepared funeral pile lighted, and, with ignominy and reproach, he was suffered to perish. At Gateshead, Shields, Sunderland, and other places, the admiral was similarly caricatured.—*Local Papers.*

July 30.—A letter bearing this date, from Lowick, Northumberland, says,—“The thunder has broken upon a rock at Langleyford, near Cheviot, split it in pieces, and killed forty sheep.”—*Gent's Mag.*

August 9.—Two servant girls in the Close, Newcastle, bathing themselves in the river behind their master's house, by the declivity of a sand-bank, were carried out of their depth and drowned before any assistance could be given them.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

August 11.—About two o'clock in the morning a dreadful accident happened at Chaters-haugh colliery, on the river Wear. The foul air in one of the pits ignited, by which four men were instantly killed and torn to pieces. The explosion was so violent that a corf, laden with coals, was blown up the shaft from a depth of 10 fathoms into the open air, and a vast quantity of coal dust and rubbish was thrown to a great distance, discolouring the surface of the ground round about. The report was so loud, as to be heard by people in their beds near two miles off, rumbling like deep thunder, or the discharge of many artillery. Had it happened an hour later, the whole of the workmen would have been in the mine, consequently the destruction of human life would have been dreadful.—*Ibid.*

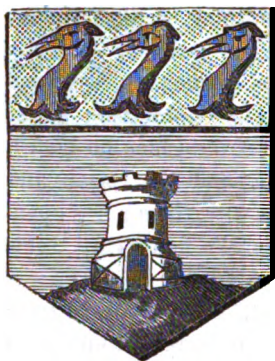
September.—A young woman was attacked by two soldiers on Gateshead Fell, near the wind-mill, who attempted to rob her of her clothes, &c., but not being able to accomplish that quietly, they threw her into an old coal-pit about twenty yards in depth, where she remained seven days before she was discovered. What was very miraculous, she had received no hurt in the fall, and had sustained herself with only the rain water that ran down the sides of the pit which she collected in her shoe.—*Local Papers.*

1756 (Oct. 7).—About one o'clock in the morning, a most violent hurricane came on at Newcastle and its neighbourhood, whereby several houses were blown down others unroofed, and chimnies carried away. The damage done on the river Tyne was deplorable; about 40 keels were either sunk or driven to sea with several men on board, who were all lost. The *Welcome Messenger*, and the *Sarah* and *Margaret*, both of London, were driven to sea with their ports open, and lost. A Danish vessel, laden with iron for the factory at Swallow, was sunk at Burdon's quay. The *Blessing*, of Whitby, was overset at Jarrow quay, and four boys drowned. The accounts from Sunderland were very shocking; above 40 keels were missing, and several ships were damaged and driven out to sea. The bodies of twelve men were found strewn along the shore. The destruction in the woods at Gibside will give a pretty accurate idea of the general devastation; trees out of number were destroyed, some torn away by the roots, others split to the bottom of their prodigious trunks; many had their unwieldy boughs twisted off, and scattered on the tops of the neighbouring hills. The elegant banquetting house had its south front and roof much damaged, and the walks, lawns, and roads, were strewn with the effects of the storm. But what was very singular, the noble column which stands on an eminence, and at that time with all its scaffolding round it, being just then finished,* had not a rafter moved, while the strangest ruin was seen in the vallies and deepest shades, as if many whirlwinds had gathered together, and, with collected force, had aimed destruction at the most secure retreats; the noblest oaks being levelled to the ground, while the slender saplings that bent to the storm stood unhurt, save what were crushed by the cumbrous weight of their fallen neighbours. The destruction all over the country was awful in the extreme.—*Local Papers*.

October 24.—As the ferry-boat was crossing the river at Sunderland with about twenty passengers and a young horse on board, by the unskilful management of the two ferrymen, it was forced by the strong current under a ship's rope, which coming across the horse, he was thrown down, and the people sallying the same way, upset the boat. The ferrymen were both drowned, the horse and his owner were carried together under a ship's bottom and drowned, as was also a child. The rest of the passengers were saved by the assistance of ropes and boats.—*Ibid*.

November 4.—Died, George Smith, esq., of Burnhall, in the county

* This column, which is of the Doric order, rises 140 feet in height, surmounted by a colossal gilt figure of *Liberty*, 12 feet high. This, when the gilding was perfect, must have had an imposing effect under the rays of the sun, as it can be seen at a great distance.



of Durham, eldest son of John Smith, D. D. (see July 30, 1715). He inherited much of his father's taste for literary and antiquarian pursuits. In 1722 he published from Bowyer's press his father's noble edition of Bede, which he had completed with great care. Mr. Smith in early life kept some terms in the Inner Temple, but afterwards took orders in the nonjuring church, and became Titular bishop of Durham. He led a retired life, and died at Burnhall in his 64th year,

respected for integrity and benevolence.—*Surtees.*

1756 (Nov. 5).—A wind-mill on the Castle Leazes, near Gallowgate, Newcastle, was burnt down, supposed by incendiaries. The corporation offered twenty guineas reward for the apprehension of the offender or offenders.—*Local Papers.*

. November 19.—Being the anniversary of lord Ossulston's birth day, the right hon. the earl of Tankerville, gave an elegant entertainment at Chillingham castle, in Northumberland, to his lordship's tenants in that neighbourhood, at which were present upwards of 200 persons. His lordship also, on account of the inclemency of the season and great scarcity of provisions, was pleased to order a great number of the wild cattle in Chillingham park to be slaughtered, which, with a proportionable quantity of bread, were on that day distributed



COURT-YARD OF CHILLINGHAM CASTLE.

amongst upwards of 600 poor people in that part of the country.—*Ibid.*

December 31.—Died at Lesbury, in Northumberland, Mary Bennet, aged 110, who (except her sight which she lost about three years before), enjoyed all her faculties to the last.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1757 (Jan. 3).—Buried, Dorothy Windsor, widow. This lady who was the last surviving daughter of sir Richard Stote of Jesmond, knight, and relict of the hon. Dixie Windsor, died intestate, in the 85th year of her age; when her valuable estates in Northumberland, and in Newcastle, were claimed by sir Robert Bewick, knight, and John Craster, esq., who entered into possession thereof as next of kin; but their right thereto, was afterwards contested by Stote Manby, who claimed the property as cousin and heir of the deceased. After considerable litigation Manby obtained a verdict in his favour, at the assizes held in Newcastle in 1781, in reference to the premises situate within the town and county of Newcastle; and previous to the trial of the action having reference to the Northumberland estates, a compromise was effected and an agreement entered into, by which Bewick and Craster were allowed to retain the estates, they paying Manby £1500. for the law expenses he had incurred, and granting him a clear yearly rent charge of £300. out of the estates. The ancient residence of the Stote family at Jesmond, now called Stote's hall, has been recently purchased by John Shield, esq. The cut in the margin shews Stote's hall as it appeared in 1801.—*T. Bell's Collections.*



January 20.—Died at Cow-gate, near Newcastle, in the 111th year of her age, Isabel Darling, who retained her faculties to the last. She left a daughter aged 88.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March 11.—The Ann, Richardson, of Shields, met with a French privateer on her passage from London, which she engaged for near four hours. Observing the approach of some colliers, the Frenchman sheered off, and was not again seen. The privateer carried 14 guns and 150 men. The Ann only 5 guns and 8 men, save nine miners, passengers, who assisted and behaved gallantly. The Ann was much damaged, but none of the hands were killed.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

April 15.—Mr. Green, a shopkeeper at Corbridge, whilst putting his gun into order, inadvertently snapped it near a 10lb. box of gunpowder, and a spark falling into the box, it immediately blew up with

a tremendous explosion, by which he was much scorched, and his clothes set on fire. Four other persons were much injured. The door being open, the house was saved from destruction.—*Local Papers*.

1757 (April 19).—The south mail came into Newcastle guarded before, by a man on horseback with a drawn sword, and behind by another with a charged blunderbuss, which precaution was at that time taken on all the principal roads to prevent its being robbed.—*Ibid*.

April 21.—Thursday in the evening, the Mermaid, Carr, of Shields, was seen to founder at sea, she went down instantaneously, and all hands perished. There were on board James and Charles Thompson, bankrupts, who were going up to London to appear to the Statute, and several other passengers from Newcastle, nearly twenty in all, besides the ship's crew. The captain was blamed for this melancholy accident, having taken in two keels of coals above the ships usual loading.—*Gillespy's Col*.

June 10 Friday.—Fifteen men and a boy were suffocated in a coal pit, near Ravensworth, by a gust of foul air which took fire and burnt up to the pit's mouth.—*Gent's. Mag*.

June 15.—Robert Clover was buried at Gateshead, where he was born on the 5th of December, 1738. He was a young man of uncommon parts and application, and had acquired such nice skill in music, as to excite the admiration of Mr. Charles Avison, one of the first masters in the profession. He made great advances in drawing, portrait, landscape, and miniature painting, without the assistance of masters. He also made considerable progress in modern languages, in astronomy, and the mathematics. When only fifteen years of age, he wrote two poetic pieces, in imitation of Milton's *L'Allegro*, which Mr. Hilton, of Gateshead, published with his own poems. But by intense labour he injured a delicate constitution, and died when approaching to manhood, beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.—*Local Papers*.

July 13.—Died at Unthank, in the parish of Shotley, Durham, aged 83, Christopher Hunter, M. D., a learned and judicious antiquary and physician. Dr. Hunter was the only son of Thomas Hunter, of Medomsley, gent. He was born ... July, 1675, and was sent at an early age to the free grammar school of Kepyer, in Houghton-le-Spring. At the age of eighteen he was removed to the University of Cambridge, and was admitted pensioner of St. John's college in 1692, under the tuition of Mr. Thomas Brown and of the eminent scholar and antiquary Thomas Baker, whose sister Margaret was the wife of John Hunter, Christopher's elder brother. Distinguished by regularity of conduct, and a severe attention to his academical studies, young Hunter soon became a favourite pupil of Mr. Baker ;

and it may seem probable that from this connection with the venerable antiquary of St. John's, he either imbibed or confirmed that genuine taste for antiquarian pursuits, which, if it did not open the path to worldly profit or distinction, afforded at least a rational and innocent source of amusement during the literary leisure of a long and tranquil life. Mr. Hunter took his degree of B. M. in 1698. He soon after retired to his native county, and fixed himself in medical practice at Stockton-on-Tees. In 1702 he was married at Durham abbey, to Elizabeth, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of John Elrington, esq., of Espersheales. With this lady Dr. Hunter received a considerable landed estate, and he had also a very handsome provision settled on him by his father. To these resources were added the emoluments of a respectable practice; yet, with the very common fate of literary men, Dr. Hunter seemed destined never to be rich. Like poor Anthony à Wood "heraldry, [musick, and painting] did so much crowd upon him, that he could not avoid them; and could never give a reason why he should delight in those studies more than in others, so prevalent was nature, mixed with a generosity of mind and a hatred to all that was servile, sneaking, or advantageous for lucre sake." A few years after his marriage, Dr. Hunter removed from Stockton to Durham, a place much more congenial probably to his habits, both as to society, and the facilities which he found in indulging his antiquarian taste. Here he revelled in abbey-legers, registers and chartularies. The library of the dean and chapter, stowed with sound history and topography, and with expensive books of reference, stood open to him. He corresponded with Gordon, Lister, and Horsley, and he discovered coins and excavated altars; and traced roads and stations at Lanchester and Ebchester. Dr. Hunter had now seriously conceived the idea of compiling a history of the diocese of Durham; and in 1743 he published proposals for printing by subscription, in two volumes 4to. "*Antiquitates Parochiales Dioces. Dunelm. hucusque ineditæ*," collected from the archives of the church of Durham, the chancery rolls there, and the records in the consistory court. With a view probably to the completion of this work, Dr. Hunter was entrusted by Mr. Bowes, of Streatlam, with the *Bowes' papers*, containing the correspondence of Robert Bowes, esq., Elizabeth's ambassador in Scotland, and his brother sir George Bowes, knight marshall. Dr. Hunter's intended work however never saw the light. His actual publications were confined to a republication of "*Davies' Rights and Monuments of the Church of Durham, 1733*" and "*An Illustration of Mr. Daniel Neale's History of the Puritans, in the article of Peter Smart, A. M., from original papers, with remarks, 1736.*" His MS. collections for his intended topogra-

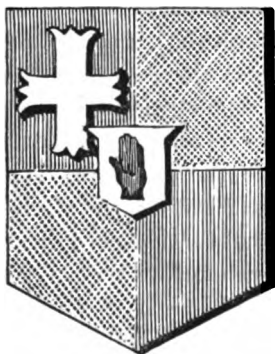
phical work were extremely numerous. Two volumes of transcripts from the chartularies of the church of Durham, written in an extremely neat hand, and several loose papers, are in the cathedral library. Another volume was in the possession of the late John Hunter, esq., of the Hermitage; but it is feared that many more are irretrievably lost.—*Surtees*.

1757 (August 2).—A shepherd and his dog were killed on Gateshead Fell, near Newcastle, by lightning.—*Gent's Mag.*

August 8.—Monday, William Heugh was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for the murder of a bastard child.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 4.—Monday, while George and Newark Lax, two brothers, were underground, in the workings of Lambton colliery, the sulphurous air took fire at one of their candles, and they were both burned by the explosion. The former lived some days, the latter died immediately, and though several other men were in the workings of the colliery, and heard the explosion like a loud clap of thunder, not one of them was hurt, as the blast ascended from the workings to one of the shafts, and so was extinguished.—*Ibid.*

September 16.—A green shark, six feet long, was taken in the river Tweed, a little above the bridge at Berwick. The fishermen before they saw it, imagined they had got a great haul of salmon, the net being so difficult to draw. As soon as it came near the shore, it made the water fly to a prodigious height, and after they had disabled it a little, and got it into shoal water, it made a hole in the sand with its tail which would have held a coach. Some gentlemen who had seen the sharks of both the Indies said this was an East Indian one, and it was thought it had followed the East India fleet to the Forth, and taken off after the salmon up the river in passing by. A clasped knife was found in its belly.—*Gent's. Mag.*



September 28.—Died, at his seat at Belsay castle, in Northumberland, sir William Middleton, bart. He was a gentleman of the strictest honour, and steadily attached to the house of Hanover, which he manifested upon all occasions with a becoming ardour and alacrity; one remarkable instance of which was his attending his royal highness the duke of Cumberland in his expedition to Scotland, where he was present at the battle of Culloden. He was one of the oldest members of the house of commons, having sat in six parliaments a representative for the county of Northumberland, where

his interest was so firmly established, that no force of party seemed able to shake it; and indeed his social heart and many amiable qualities had so endeared him to every body, that whether named as a companion or a toast, sir William Middleton was always acceptable.

—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1757 (October 24).—Monday, died at her house, without Pilgrim-street-Gate, Anne Dobson, aged 104. She could eat a hearty meal till within two days of her death, and enjoyed all her faculties to her last moments.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 13.—There were serious disturbances at Newcastle, and other places in the north, on account of the high price of corn.—*Gent's. Mag.*

November 18.—At noon a melancholy accident happened at Longbenton colliery, by foul air, which killed Mr. George Rawling, borer, and Adam Hunter, sinker, who were down the pit; and the explosion was so great, that it killed Mr. Ralph Unthank, viewer, who was upon the bank, and looking down the pit.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 22.—A fire broke out in the mill-house of Mr. Rowell, baker and brewer, in Pilgrim street, Newcastle, which consumed the same before it was got under. The right worshipful the mayor, the magistrates, and the principal officers in the town, were very active on the occasion, in giving proper directions and keeping good order until the fire was extinguished.—*Local Papers.*

November.—As some colliers were sinking a new pit on Gateshead Fell, near Newcastle, they found the entire skeleton of a man of a gigantic size, in a bed of stiff clay, about seven feet from the surface. Near the skeleton were found three small pieces of very ancient coin. The person when living must have been near eight feet high, the bones laid compact, measuring seven feet eight inches, and must have been there many hundred years.—*Gent's. Mag.*

December 15.—John Gallon, sen. of the High shaw, [Redesdale] aged 108 buried.—*Elsdon Reg.*

In building a bridge over the river Gaunless, in the park at Bishop Auckland, was found a Roman urn of greyish clay, filled with ashes, earth, and the remains of human bones. Near the place where this urn was found—about a quarter of a mile from Binchester, several other urns and pieces of pottery have been discovered.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

The trustees of lord Crewe's charity, at Bamborough, this year, began the repairs of the tower, under the direction of Dr. Sharp, when it was fitted up for the reception of the poor.—*Grose.*

This year, died at Newcastle, Richard Wailes, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

1758 (Feb. 20).—This day, was shot on the town-moor, Newcastle, for desertion, William Bland, a soldier in general Bockland's second battalion, then quartered in that town. He behaved with a becoming penitence. He had been impressed into the service.—*Local Papers*.

February 27.—There was a numerous meeting of gentlemen at the guildhall, in Newcastle, in order to form an independent company of volunteers for that town, when several regulations were agreed on, and an association signed, their uniform fixed, and March 6th was appointed for their first attendance at the merchants' court, to learn the Prussian exercise. This was the exercise practised by the troops under Frederick III. of Prussia, and by which he had been so victorious over the French, &c.—*Ibid*.

February 27.—The castle and manor of Hilton, in the county of Durham, were contracted for by ——— Wogan, esq., jun. who had returned from the East Indias, for £30,550., but the sale was never perfected, and they were, after the death of George Bowes, esq., of Streatlam and Gibside, sold to Mrs. Bowes, his widow.—*Surtees*.

March 6.—Died, Henry, earl of Darlington. He represented the county of Durham in the parliament of 1747.—*Sharp's Knts. of Dur.*

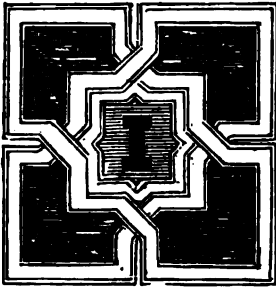
March 15.—Died, Dr. Sharpe, at Durham, prebendary of that church, and archdeacon of Northumberland.—*Gent's. Mag.*

March 20.—A pitman working in a coal pit at Mitford, near Morpeth, was, by a sudden shutting in of the earth, inclosed in it and, notwithstanding the efforts of some hundreds of people, could not be got out until he had lain six days in that dismal situation. The poor fellow was alive, but had lost the use of his legs and thighs.—*Local Papers*.



TOWN-HOUSE, HARTLEPOOL. See Page 33.

CHAPTER IV.



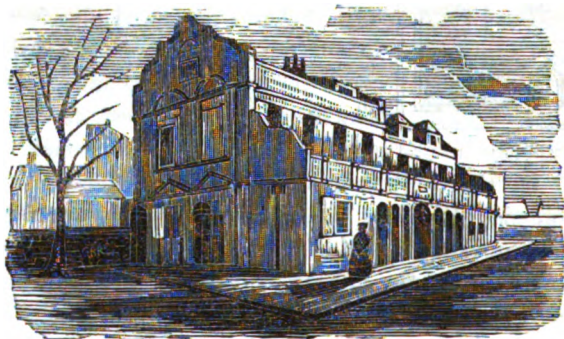
N the month of March, this year, there were discovered on removing a ridge of limestone, and rubbish, on Fulwell-hills, near Sunderland, a gigantic human skeleton, two Roman coins, and an urn of unbaked clay. The skeleton measured nine feet six inches in length ; the shin-bone measuring two feet three inches from the knee to the ankle. The head lay to the west, and was defended from the superincumbent earth by four large flat stones. The coins were found on the south side of the skeleton, near the right hand. Another singular discovery was made here several years before. In working these quarries a kind of square pit was opened, within which were deposited, a quantity of stags' horns, cut into lengths of three or four inches, and resting amongst a deep-coloured substance, much resembling animal matter.—*Gent's. Mag.*

March.—Mr. Smelt, one of the engineers belonging to the board of ordnance, arrived at North Shields, to erect additional batteries at Tynemouth castle and the Spanish works, as also to build barracks for 1,000 men, to be a more effectual security to the harbour. Advertisements were posted in Newcastle and Shields, giving notice, that all persons desirous of contracting for wood, stone, lime, &c., towards erecting the intended barracks and redoubts at Tynemouth, would give in their proposals immediately.—*Local Rec.*

April 11.—Susannah Fleming, stood in the pillory at the White cross, Newcastle, one hour, pursuant to her sentence, for the first time, (being to stand once a-quarter, for a year,) for fortune telling. Though not molested by the populace, she was nearly strangled before the time was expired, occasioned either by her fainting and shrinking down, or from having too much about her neck, and being thereby

straightened in the hole. A sailor, out of charity, brought her down the ladder upon his back, in a nearly dying state.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1758 (April 26).—Being the anniversary of the birth of his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, it was observed in Newcastle with great tokens of joy. In the afternoon the independent gentlemen volunteers, in order to celebrate the day with the greatest respect, mustered on the Forth green in their uniforms and accoutrements, and went through the Prussian exercise with great exactness, making three extraordinary good fires, in the presence of a prodigious concourse of spectators, who expressed the greatest satisfaction. They made a fine appearance in their new uniforms, and adjourned, after firing, to the Forth tavern, where several loyal and national healths were drunk, particularly the king, the prince of wales, (George III.) the duke, and the rest of the royal family, the king of Prussia, &c., &c., and the evening was concluded with great cheerfulness and sociability. The day was celebrated in a similar manner at North Shields, by the Tynemouthshire volunteers.—*Ibid.*



FORTH TAVERN, NEWCASTLE.

May 22.—The following curious notice circulated at the time, shews the then sports at Swalwell hopping.—“On this day, the annual diversions at Swalwell, near Newcastle, will take place, which will consist of dancing for ribbons, grinning for tobacco, women running for smocks, ass races, foot courses by men, with an odd whim of a man eating a cock alive, feathers, entrails,” &c.—*Local Rec.*

July 20.—Upwards of 2,000 salmon were taken in the river Tyne, and, being brought to Newcastle market, were sold at one penny and three-halfpence per pound.—*Local Papers.*

July 24.—William Wilkinson, esq., of Newcastle, high sheriff for Northumberland, in his procession from the Moot hall to meet the judges of assize on their way to that town, was accompanied by the principal gentlemen in the town and county. The gentlemen of the

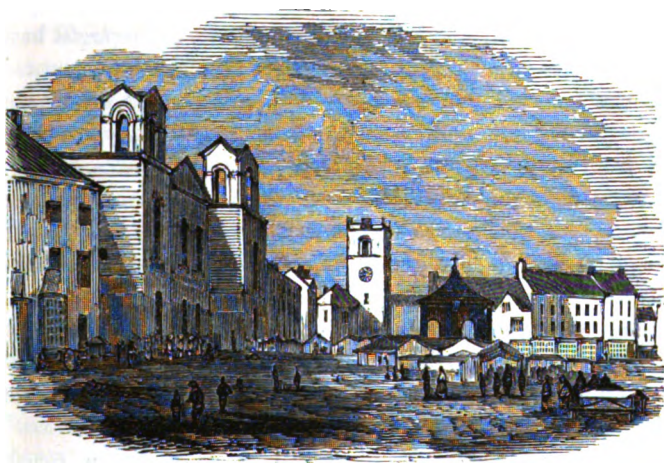
hunting club, of which the sheriff was a member, also complimented him on this occasion, not only with their company, but as a token of further respect, provided new dresses, (blue—trimmed, laced hats, &c.) to appear in, taking the rear of the procession, two and two abreast.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1758 (July 26).—Died, Mr. John Stodart, many years a writing-master, in Newcastle, the first person who taught the art to great perfection in that town, and whose very extraordinary execution stimulated many others to imitate him.—*Local Papers.*

August 7.—Alice Williamson, was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, for a burglary. She acknowledged the justice of her sentence and died penitent.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

August 15.—Races, to be continued annually, were commenced at Prestwick, near Newcastle. Eight men started and ran four heats through the Car, to the great surprise and diversion of a large company assembled to witness this novel entertainment. There were several foot races upon the land, and the whole concluded with a ball.—*Local Papers.*

September 15.—While two sergeants and a corporal were employed in making up cartridges in the town-hall, at Morpeth, some of the powder ignited by accident, and above a thousand cartridges exploded. The three men were terribly burnt; the life of one of the sergeants was despaired of. The windows of the building were much shattered, and the consequences would have been still more dreadful, had not three thousand cartridges, and two sacks of gunpowder, which were upon the table, providentially escaped.—*Gent's Mag.*



TOWN-HALL AND MARKET-PLACE, MORPETH.

1758 (Sep. 20).—The pot house at the Skinners'-burn, Newcastle, was burnt down, and but for the timely assistance of the glass-makers, most of the adjacent buildings would have been consumed.—*Local Papers.*

September 21.—A sheep broke from a butcher who had a drove in the Close, Newcastle, and being chased by his dog down a lane, where two dyers named Clowney and Porteus, were washing cloth in the Tyne, it leaped off the quay, and threw the men from their stands into the river, and the tide going very strong, they were both drowned.—*Ibid.*

September 30.—At Snitter, near Rothbury, Northumberland, a boar seized a man, named David Hall, and before any assistance came to him, the boar tore out his entrails at both his sides, and he expired the next day.—*Ibid.*

October 8.—A French privateer of 6 guns, took a brig off Tynewmouth, in ballast, belonging to Mr. Thos. Brown of London; likewise a sloop belonging to Mr. Harrison of Sunderland; but soon afterwards, the brig's men arose upon the French, four in number, threw one of them over board, made the rest prisoners, and ran the brig into Blyth. For this act they received a handsome contribution made at the exchange, Newcastle.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

October 15.—A very large tree, intended for Mr. Blackett's colliery at Heworth, was drawn through Newcastle by 17 horses; it measured 161 feet, and was brought from Walton park in Cumberland.—*Local Papers.*

November 26.—This night a surprising large meteor was seen at Newcastle, about 9 o'clock, which passed a little westward of the town, directly north, and illuminated the atmosphere to that degree, for near a minute, that, though it was dark before, a pin might have been picked up in the streets. Its velocity was inconceivably great, and it seemed near the size of a man's head. It had a tail of between two and three yards long, and as it passed, some said they saw sparks of fire fall from it, it was low in the atmosphere. It passed near Edinburgh about the same time, and had the like appearance and moved in the same direction.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

November.—As William Fenwick, esq., of Bywell, was hunting, a fox was started which the hounds pursued upwards of twenty miles, when being hard pinched, and the hounds in full view, reynard took into a drift that led into an old coal pit; four couple of the dogs pursued him close up the drift, when they all fell down the pit and were drowned.—*Local Papers.*

December 3.—Sunday, about 9 o'clock at night, a remarkable meteor of a conic form, was observed to pass near Edinburgh with

great velocity ; it was amazingly luminous insomuch that for five or six seconds, the inhabitants could see the most minute things in the streets. About the same time, like meteors were seen at Newcastle, at Dublin, in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, and in Chelsea fields ; but could not be one and the same from their different directions.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1758.—Pottergate street chapel (Scotch), Alnwick, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1760 to 1785, and 680 entries from 1785 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1759 (Jan. 7).—Sunday, in the forenoon, a fire broke out at the mansion-house, at Gloster-hill, near Warkworth, while the family were at church, which entirely consumed the same. A servant girl, in attempting to get out some of the goods, perished in the flames.—*Gillespy's Col.*

January.—The dock at Howdon pans, on the Tyne, was completed, and capable of receiving the largest vessels.—*Ibid.*

February 10.—The long prevalence of high winds and fair weather, previous to this date was most remarkable ; and, what was surprising, several trees near Newcastle, were almost full blown, one in particular had blossoms upon it, and butterflies in vigour were caught flying in the streets.—*Ibid.*

March 30.—A press gang went to Swalwell in quest of men to serve in the navy, but came off with a severe drubbing ; and the next night, upon the like occasion, a scuffle happened, in which Mr. Bell, one of the chief inhabitants there, was killed, and some others on both sides dangerously wounded. The person who killed Mr. Bell, made his escape. April 7th, Mrs. Bell, widow of the deceased, offered by advertisement, a reward of £20. for the apprehension of William Moffat, of Swalwell, barber, who murdered her late husband, by giving him five stabs with a sword in different parts of his body. April 28, Moffat was apprehended at Whitehaven, and committed to Carlisle gaol. Capt. Death, alias Osborn, well known for his performances in singing the celebrated and memorable ditty relating to the captain of the Terrible privateer, his late master, is said to have given information respecting him, after he had got on board a vessel for Dublin. May 7th,—Moffat was committed to Durham gaol, and at the assizes in August, 1759, was acquitted.—*Ibid.*

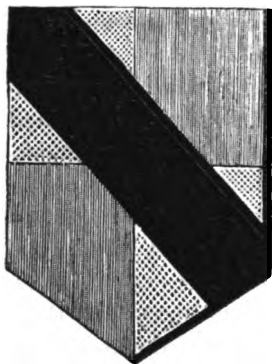
April 17.—Tuesday, a melancholy accident happened in the house of Shafto Brown, a mason in Durham, where four children being left in a room, set it on fire by pulling it out of the grate, and were thereby suffocated ; by a timely discovery no further damage was sustained.—*Ibid.*

April.—Died, an ingenious mathematician, Mr. William Pryor,

assay-master of the plate-office, in Newcastle, and for the counties of Northumberland and Durham, eminent for making musical instruments and toys. His son, Matthew Pryor, succeeded him as assay-master.—*Local Papers*.

1759 (May 14).—Monday, about thirty impressed men on board a tender at Sunderland, forcibly made their escape. The bravery of their leader was remarkable. Being hoisted on deck by his followers, he wrested the halbert from the sentinel on duty, and with one hand defended himself, while with the other he let down a ladder into the hold for the rest to come up, which they did and overpowered the crew.—*Gent's. Mag.*

June 2.—The royal assent was given by commission to an act for the better improvement of the river, port, and haven of Sunderland.—*Ibid.*



June 17.—On the arrival of the agreeable and welcome news at Newcastle, of the reduction of Guadaloupe, on the 21st of the preceding April, the bells were immediately rung, and the day was concluded with every demonstration of joy. The news was particularly pleasing at Newcastle, as the brave colonel Clavering, who brought home the dispatches, was of that neighbourhood, and whose relations were complimented on this account. The colonel had greatly distin-

guished himself on the occasion.—*Local Papers*.

June 25.—About nine o'clock in the morning, Jeremiah Bell, of the grenadier company, in Colonel La Fausille's 66th regiment of foot, quartered in Sunderland, was shot for repeated desertion. He appeared to be very much disturbed, till he prevailed with his mother to confess in private (to the clergyman who attended him) something which seemed to lie heavy on his conscience, after which he suffered composedly. Bell was only 22 years of age, and born at Bassenthwaite, in Cumberland.—*Local Rec.*

June 26.—Wednesday, early in the morning, Jennison Shafto, esq., started against time, to ride fifty miles in two hours; in the course of which he used ten horses and accomplished it in two seconds under eleven minutes within the time prescribed by the articles, to the astonishment of all present.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 13.—The corporation of Durham unanimously voted the freedom of that city to the right hon. Richard, earl of Scarborough, the hon. and right rev. the lord bishop of Durham, and the hon. James Lumley, on account of their signal services in promoting the naviga-

tion of the river Wear, and their especial regard for the interests of that city.—*Surtees*.

1759 (July 27).—The right hon. Lord Warkworth, and his brother, sons of the earl of Northumberland, arrived at Alnwick castle, where the earl and countess were then residing. This being the first time that these illustrious young persons had paid a visit to Northumberland, they were received with great joy by the inhabitants of Alnwick. In the evening there were ringing of bells, discharges of small cannon, and a grand display of fire-works in the street before the castle—*Local Papers*.

July.—At this time there was living at Guizance, near Warkworth, a woman, named Mary Bullock, in the 104th year of her age, and what was very remarkable, she had not long before got a new set of teeth. She enjoyed a strong memory, was in great vigour, and had several children, the eldest of whom was upwards of 80 years of age.—*Ibid*.

August 2.—Thursday, two girls on their way from Monkton to Newcastle, on horseback, with milk, were struck by lightning, one of them died immediately, the other was much burnt, and both horses a little scorched.—*Gillespy's Col*.

August 11.—About three o'clock in the morning, arrived in Newcastle, the agreeable news of the victory gained on the first, by Prince Ferdinand, over the French, near Minden, at which early hour, the bells were rung, some houses were illuminated, and bonfires made in the streets; before eight o'clock, the joy was universal throughout the town.—*Ibid*.

August 12.—Sunday morning as a boy was bringing a horse from grass to Newcastle, he incautiously put the end of the halter round his neck, and the horse taking fright, threw him, and dragged him so as to separate his head from his body, in which state he was found.—*Ibid*.

August 13.—Died at Stockton, Mr. Martin Bryson, who for many years kept a bookseller's shop on Tyne Bridge, Newcastle. The late Mr. William Charnley, served his apprenticeship with Mr. Bryson, "whose integrity, benevolence, and amiable disposition, rendered him a credit to trade, a blessing to society, and dear to all his friends." Mr. Bryson was in habits of intimacy and correspondence with Mr. Allan Ramsay, the celebrated Scots poet, one of whose letters to Mr. Bryson, it is said, was addressed as follows:—

"To Mr. Bryson on Tyne Brigg,

An upright, downright, honest Whig."—*Local Rec*.

Aug. 27.—Monday, the fishermen of Newbigging-by-the-sea, drove on shore there a fish twenty-one feet long, and its circumference

round the shoulders, nine feet, the head resembling that of a grampus, but more depressed with a fistula in the middle ; the structure of the gills remarkable, the formina being three on each side in semicircular direction ; these were defended by three rows of a bony lamina, and the whole convex part of the lamellæ, beset with strong black hair, or substance like whale-bone, but no thicker than coarse fringe about three inches deep, which decreased gradually as they approached the extremities ; the convex side of each lamina fitted the concave side of the next superior one, and all connected by a strong membrane : the eye small for the size of the fish, and covered with a skin, which concealed all the eye but the iris, which was of a dark blue ; the tongue large and flat, of a vivid colour ; the mouth not armed with teeth, the skin of the whole body rough, the fins cartilaginous, and the tail bifid, the liver large, and the stomach of a remarkable size, which, when dilated, might contain full ten gallons, and was full of fine seaweed, and sand : the intestines of an uncommon form ; the great gut resembled the form of a human leg, though much larger ; and from the projection which represented the calf or ball of the leg, was a vessel which communicated with the stomach. When the head was anatomized, appeared a pipe or tube of a fine gristle, which extended from the fistula to the end of the nostril, and along the top of which ran a vessel that communicated with the brain : the head was composed of a sort of porous bone ; and by the trunk was collected the water, which it also conveyed to the fistula ; the vertebræ was something like that of a shark ; the cartilage between the bodies of each adjoining vertebræ was very thick, and the surrounding ligaments strong in proportion (which made the space of one fourth of an inch) from the anus to the extremity of the tail, the fleshy part of the fish for two inches deep was exactly like beef, all the rest of the body resembled the flesh of turbot.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 9.—The news of Admiral Boscawen's having defeated the French fleet, on the 18th of August, near Gibraltar, arrived in Newcastle by express, on which occasion the bells were rung, and every possible demonstration of joy was exhibited by the inhabitants.—*Local Papers.*

September 11.—The account of the surrender of Niagara and Ticonderago, in America, on the 24th of July, to the British arms, under the command of major-general Amherst, arriving in Newcastle, the bells were rung till a late hour at night, several houses were illuminated, and a general joy was diffused through the whole town.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—As Mr. Cuthbert Lambert, son of an eminent physician, residing in Pilgrim street, Newcastle, was riding along

Sandyford-stone-lane, his mare took fright and ran off with him, at full speed, towards the bridge, across which he endeavoured to turn her, but not succeeding, the animal leaped over the battlement, and fell about forty-five feet to the bed of the burn below, where she stretched herself out, and died almost immediately. Mr. Lambert escaped with his life, but, having kept his seat to the bottom, received so violent a shock, that he was some time indisposed. On examining the body of the mare, all the joints of her back were found displaced by the fall. "Lambert's Leap" is cut upon the coping stone of the battlement.—*Local Papers*.

1759 (Sep. 21).—Died, deservedly lamented, lady Blackett, consort of sir Walter Blackett, bart., M. P., for Newcastle. The loss of this most benevolent lady, was severely felt by the necessitous poor, of her own sex, for she was almost unceasingly engaged in relieving the distresses of those around her, whilst her servants and others were actively employed in seeking real and deserving objects for her charity; while she was revered by these, she was not less esteemed and beloved by all of every degree and station who had the happiness of her acquaintance, for her friendship was sincere, steady, and inviolable, as her charity was constant, extensive, and bountiful. On the 27th her remains were deposited in the family vault, in St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, the pall being borne by the earl of Northumberland, lord Ravensworth, sir John Swinburne, sir Thomas Clavering, sir Henry Grey, and sir Matthew White, barts., George Bowes, George Delaval, William Fenwick, William Carr, of Etal, Lancelot Allgood, and William Ord, esqrs.—*Ibid*.

October 5.—All the officers of the Northumberland militia dined at Alnwick castle, with the earl and countess of Northumberland. The company assembled at the post-office, from whence they marched through the streets in their uniforms to the gates of the castle, where they were met and saluted by the earl and lord Warkworth, and thence conducted into the castle, being complimented on their arrival by a discharge of cannon. The dinner was most magnificent, and the toasts, which were of the most loyal description, were accompanied by discharges of cannon. A few days after, the clothing for the men arrived. The uniform was red, faced with buff, as at present.—*Newc. Courant*.

October 21.—The important and glorious news of the surrender of Quebec, in America, to the British arms, on the 18th of the preceding month, arrived in Newcastle, on which occasion the bells were immediately rung, but the general rejoicing was postponed until the next day (Monday), being the anniversary of his majesty's coronation. The gentlemen volunteers fired several excellent volleys in the morning

and at noon the two battalions of Yorkshire militia went through the same ceremony, the bells were rung throughout the day, and at night the houses were most brilliantly illuminated. At all the adjacent towns there were great rejoicings on account of the success of the British arms. These rejoicing were not unmixed with sorrow for the loss of the brave General Wolfe, who was killed whilst gallantly heading his grenadiers on the heights of Abraham, westward of Quebec, five days previous to the surrender of that place. He was first wounded in the wrist, then in the belly, but still pushing on he was mortally wounded in the breast. In his dying moments he desired to know how the day went, and being told that the French were running, he replied, "God be praised—I die in peace." This gallant general was only 34 years of age. The French General Montcalm, and the two French officers, next in command, were mortally wounded.*

—*Local Papers.*

1759 (Oct. 30).—A fire broke out in one of the stables belonging to the Bird-in-bush inn, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, which burnt with great violence for some time; but, by the vigilance and care of the the right worshipful Matthew Ridley, esq., mayor, the rest of the magistrates there present, with the assistance of the inhabitants, and the conduct of the officers of the Yorkshire militia, who attended with their corps, it was happily extinguished about eleven o'clock.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

October.—A fire broke out in the stack-garth at Grindon, near Berwick, which, in a short time, consumed thirty stacks of corn and hay, together with all the barns, granaries, and other out-houses. The loss was computed at £3,000.—*Local Papers.*

November 10.—The corporation of Newcastle resolved to appoint a certain number of firemen, to be ready on all occasions to aid and assist in extinguishing any fires that might thereafter happen in that town.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

December 1.—Saturday night, the stock in a stack-yard belonging to Mr. Ralph Fenwick, at Ulgham grange, near Morpeth, was entirely consumed by fire. It consisted of nineteen stacks of corn, and near 250 tons of hay. From various circumstances it was believed to have been the act of an incendiary.—*Gillespy's Col.*

This year, a very fine organ was erected in Stockton church.—*Ibid.*

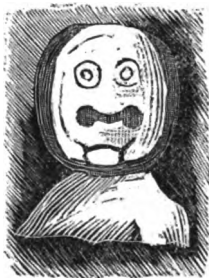
* Died, at the village of Ford, in Northumberland, August the 7th, 1807, aged 85 years, Mr. Robert Sanderson, who served as an orderly sergeant to General Wolfe, at the memorable attack on Quebec, and is the person represented in the engraving of the death of that hero, as supporting the British general after he had received his fatal wound. He often boasted that he was the person who shot General Montcalm, the French commander of that place.

1759.—An act of parliament was passed for rendering the river Wear navigable up to Durham, but the commissioners never qualified to put the act in force. A plan to render the river navigable to Durham had been proposed in 1720, and in 1796, Mr. Robert Dodd, and afterwards Mr. Whitworth, surveyed the river, with a view of joining the Tyne and Wear, by a cut through the vale of Team, to the Wear, near Picktree, and thence to the city of Durham. Estimate, £54,941. 17s. 6d. Dodd; £54,778. Whitworth.—*Surtees.*



THIRLWALL CASTLE.

This year there was discovered, on removing the rubbish from the inside of Thirlwall castle, Northumberland, just within a piece of an iron gate which then existed, the flooring of a room, consisting of three courses of flags, one above another, a stratum of sand lying between each. This castle stands near the borders of Cumberland, on the edge of a rock, west of, and overlooking the small river Tipalt; it is built upon arches, its walls are in some places above eight, and in others nine feet thick, and seem solely calculated for the purposes of defence; the smallness of the windows rendering it too dark for the comfortable residence of a family. The west end was demolished previous to 1784, for the sake of the stones, with which the neighbouring cottages have been constructed.* The cut in the margin represents "a most barbarous gigantic head, of stone," which in 1779, Brand saw "built up near the inn at Glenwhelt." "It came from Thirlwall castle, and has, no doubt, belonged to some of those hideous figures, made use of anciently in such castles, to frighten the distant enemy."



* Wallis. Grose.

1760 (Jan. 6).—A fire broke out in a malting, at the head of Hornsby's chare, adjoining the Butcher bank, Newcastle; and burnt with great violence for near five hours; it consumed a malting and two dwelling houses; it was occasioned by a person going with an uncovered candle among some of the flax saved from the ship Neptune, of that place, which was wrecked in Burlington Bay, on the 12th of December, 1759.—*Gillespy's Col.*

January 13.—Sunday evening a skulker, with twelve people in it, in crossing the river at Shields, struck upon a hauser and upset, by which eight persons perished, and another of those that were got out of the water, did not long survive.—*Ibid.*

January 24.—About eight o'clock in the evening, a dreadful fire broke out in the glass-house, at the west end of the Close, Newcastle, belonging to Messrs. Williams, and Co., but, with timely assistance, it was got under.—*Local Papers.*

January.—Died at Whitburn, near Sunderland, Mrs. Mary Bainbridge, aged 101 years. She had enjoyed perfect health for a number of years, and was out on a visit the day before her death.—*Ibid.*

January.—At Durham, about the close of the month, Lieut. Morson, of the royal volunteers, light infantry, after a march of 170 miles, undertook for a considerable wager, to walk 70 more in 18 hours, which he accomplished in sixteen.—*Gillespy's Col.*

January 31.—A tender sailed from Shields with 60 impressed men on board, who, as soon as the vessel had got out to sea, found means to release themselves, and taking possession of the vessel carried her into Scarborough and made their escape.—*Local Papers.*

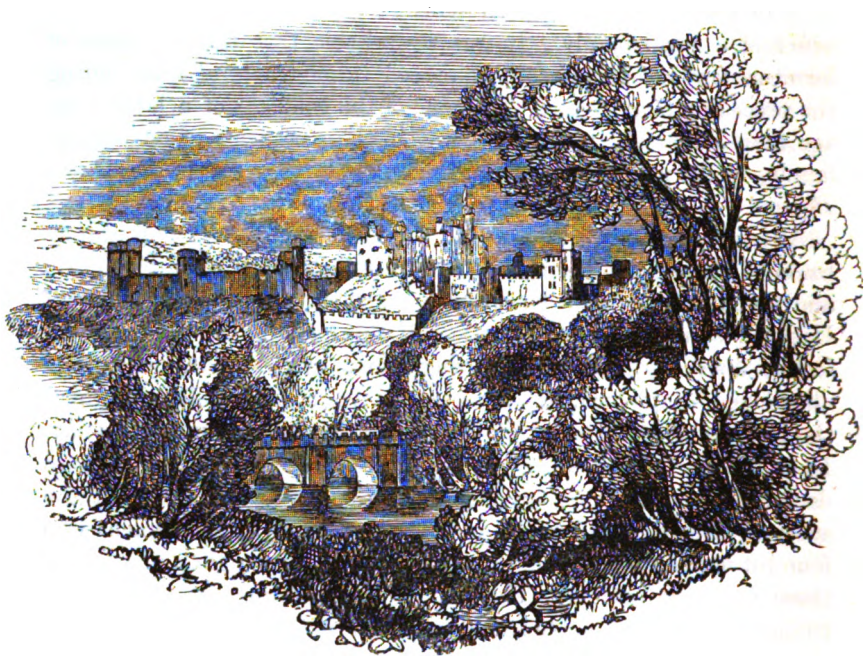
The beginning of this year, at a sale of furniture, at Winlaton, near Newcastle, a woman bought a very large old bereau for 4s. 6d., being considered nothing better than lumber. After the sale, she, with some difficulty, prevailed on a nailor, her neighbour, to assist her in removing it; he, in forcing it open by the middle, discovered some papers and loose gold; told her of it, and made it fast again; got more help, and took it away whole. In getting it out, one of the papers fell, and the gold jingling, was taken notice of by one of the assistants, but the nailor saying it was only a bag with a few nails he had put out of his pocket, he was believed. After getting it home, and dismissing the assistants, the purchaser and her friend, the nailor, went to work, and took it to pieces, and were paid for their trouble with several purses and papers of gold to a considerable amount. She gave the nailor five papers untold, which enabled him to pay his debts, and purchase a house and shop to work in, which amounted to upwards of £200., and was told by the woman to apply to her if he wanted more; but he was satisfied and looked upon it as a particular

piece of providence, being deep in debt and out of credit, with a sick wife and a small family. It was remarkable that this old piece of furniture was recollected to have passed through several sales during the preceding forty years; that none of the gold was of a later coinage than James II., and that it was in the possession of an opulent family, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle in the year 1715.—*Local Papers.*

About this period, the exterior walls of the strong and stately tower of Hepple, Northumberland, were still standing, tolerably entire, and which had probably been the manor-house of the proprietors of Hepple; as it is said the court-leet of the lordship was held here in former times, until the castle, being ruined by the Scots, was totally abandoned by the lord, who removed his court to Great Tosson, where the tenants of Hepple and the demesne annually convene to this day. In erecting a few farmsteads some years ago, an attempt was made to demolish the remaining fragments of this strong tower. But the scheme, after repeated trials, was relinquished by the workmen, who found it easier to cut stones from the hardest quarry than to separate these from the cement. This castle was probably the first of the chain of forts which extended from thence to Warkworth, and which was intended to form a barrier against the incessant and destructive incursions of the warlike borderers.—*Mackenzie's Northd.* (1824.)

1760 This year also, were removed the remains of a chapel which stood upon a fine summit, called the *Kirk-hill*, about half a mile west of Hepple, said to have been destroyed by the moss-troopers; the materials of which were applied to the purpose of building a farmstead, erected near the sacred spot. Until this time, the chapel was occasionally used as a place of sepulture by five of the adjoining villages, particularly for strangers and *unchristened* children. When its remains were finally erased in the year above mentioned, the font and its pedestal were in good preservation; and many mutilated monuments were found both within and without the walls of the building. About one hundred paces west of its site are the traces of several buildings, where *Old Hepple* formerly stood. It is said to have been destroyed during the border wars.—*Ibid.*

February 25.—The officers of the Northumberland militia met at Alnwick, and the men having marched in from different parts of the county, as well as from Newcastle, they were embodied and formed into companies, and received their clothing and accoutrements at Alnwick castle, the seat of the right hon. the earl Northumberland, brigadier-general, by whose order twenty guineas were distributed amongst them to drink his majesty's health. On the 28th, in the evening, the earl of Northumberland, accompanied by his son, Lord



ALNWICK CASTLE.

Warkworth, arrived in Newcastle; the former being lord-lieutenant of Northumberland, was on his way to Berwick to join the militia which had left Alnwick to be quartered there; and the latter to join the regiment of royal volunteers, commanded by colonel Crawford, then quartered in Newcastle, in which his lordship bore a captain's commission. March 10th, this regiment consisting of 1,400 men, was reviewed by General Whitmore, and although a very young regiment, gave great satisfaction to the general, their own officers, and a great number of spectators present. April 25th, whilst this regiment was firing upon the town-moor, Newcastle, one of the soldiers had put into his musket a ball, with the intent as was supposed to shoot the major of the regiment, it luckily missed him, but wounded his horse in the neck, of which wound it died.—*Local Papers*.

1760 (Feb.).—Married at St. Andrew's church, near Bishop-Auckland, Mr. James Towers, a gentleman about 80 years of age, to a lady of the same place, aged about 60, with some fortune. He was carried from Bishop Auckland to St. Andrew's on horseback, having a foot-page on each side, and a fiddler and piper going before him.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March 15.—A stone coffin was dug up by some workmen in the Spital Orchard, in Newcastle, in which the bones of a human skeleton,

though much decayed, were found. From the narrowness of the coffin, the body deposited in it must have been a very small one, though of a middling length.—*Local Papers.*

1760 (March).—Early in this month a fine sturgeon, about five feet long, was caught in the river Tyne, near Blaydon.—*Gillespy's Col.*

April 11.—Friday, at night, a mob assembled at Sunderland, with arms, threatening to burn the Tender, and murder capt. Dunkley, the regulating officer and his press-gang. The crew of the Tender, firing in self-defence, shot one person, a sailor boy, through the body, and wounded two others. Capt. Dunkley was also severely wounded in the back and head by the fire of his own men. On the approach of the military the mob quickly dispersed.—*Allen's Diary.*

May 29.—A remarkably large salmon was taken in the river Tyne, and sold in Newcastle market for 11s. It weighed 54 pounds, was four feet four inches long, and thirty three inches round.—*Local Papers.*

May.—Died early in this month, aged 96 years, Eleanor Haddock, a great dealer in poultry, in the Groat Market, Newcastle; who, though but once married, was mother, grand-mother, and great grand-mother to 104 children at the time of her death.—*Gillespy's Col.*

June 15.—One man was killed and another much scorched by a blast of foul air in Long Benton colliery.—*Local Papers.*

July.—Such quantities of Salmon were taken in the river Tyne, in the beginning of the month, that they were sold in the market for three farthing's per pound.—*Ibid.*

The grand juries of Northumberland and Yorkshire entered into resolutions for the abolition of vails, at the assizes, in August, 1760. This was a work congenial to the generous and independent mind of sir Walter Blackett, and he took a leading and a very active part in putting down the disgraceful custom; for which he seems to have fallen under the heavy displeasure of the valets, and probably also of the petty gentry who made parties to get their guests to pay their servants' wages. The following letter, which was sent to sir Walter, in Charles street, St. James's square, London, relates to this transaction :—

Febry 26th 1761.

Sir, I As your Mos herty well wishar take this Liberty to Acquaint you with the Dark disine's Laid against your Honour's Person as I Virey Strangley heard of it by great Accedent I think it my Duty to tell you your Life is ABsalutly agreed upon to Bee taken away upon the Account you have taken the Vails from your Sarvants thair is a Cartin Earl or Tow that is to Share the same Fate I find when a Convenient OPertunity Sarves thair is Likewise Sr James Lowther & C. in the List which I am Much Affraid will End in evel Concider

your honours Life & Fortunes is All at Stake Drop that wrong Pro-
sieding & So Advise you'r Friends I must Concl'd with Telling you I
have no interest in it my Celfe But interle for your honour Person
and the well fare of the English Nation.

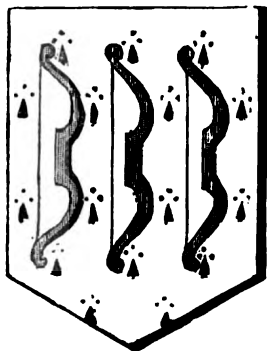
I am with All Dutifull

Respects yours

A. TREWARTH.

His Majesty, for the Discovery of the Persons concerned in the
Threats therein mentioned, promises his most gracious Pardon to any
one of them, on Conviction of his, her, or their Accomplice or Accom-
plices: And as a farther Encouragement for such Discovery, Sir
Walter Blackett, Bart. offers a Reward of £100.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1760 (Sep. 5).—The silver medal and gorget were shot for at Dar-
lington, by the gentlemen archers there, according to annual custom.
The former was won by Mr. Robert Hall, Captain, and the latter by
Mr. Thomas Watson, Lieutenant.—*Gillespy's Col.*



September 26.—Died, George Bowes, of
Streatham and Gibside, esq., son of air
Wm. Bowes, knt. M. P. 1670. He repre-
sented the county of Durham in the Parlia-
ments of 1734, 1741, 1747, and 1754. He
left an only daughter, Mary Eleanor, mar-
ried to John earl of Strathmore, by whom
she was mother of the late and present
earls, and afterwards (17th Jan. 1777) she
became the unfortunate wife of Andrew
Robinson Stoney, who assumed the name of

Bowes in consequence of his marriage.—*Sharp's Knts. of Dur.*

September 23.—Thursday, was the most stormy day remembered.
The sea near Holy Island ran mountains high, and Cheviot hills
were covered with snow to a very great depth.—*Local Papers.*

October 1.—The Lying-in-hospital in Newcastle was first opened
in Rosemary lane. A similar charity for poor lying-in-women at
their own houses, in Newcastle and Gateshead, was established the
following year, A neat stone building has recently been erected in
Bridge street, for the establishment originally in Rosemary lane.—
Local Rec.

October, 24.—Wednesday, a fishing boat with three men in it,
was overset at sea, near Tynemouth, by a large fish (supposed to be a
grampus) jumping into one end of it, and one of the men lost.—
Gillespy's Col.

November 1.—At noon the right worshipful, Henry Partis, esq.,
mayor, and the magistrates in their scarlet robes, preceded by the

town's band of music and the regalia, went from the mansion-house to the guildhall, attended by the colonels and officers of the two battalions of Yorkshire militia, then quartered in Newcastle, together with the principal gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, where many loyal healths were drunk, and his majesty king George III. proclaimed, amidst the joyful acclamations of several thousands of spectators, who accompanied them to the Flesh-market, and the White cross, in Newgate street, the usual places of proclamation.—*Local Papers.*

1760.—On the same day, his majesty was proclaimed at Berwick, amidst the joyful acclamations of a great concourse of people. Sir Edward Blackett, bart., colonel of the Northumberland militia, with the magistrates and gentlemen of the town, waited on the right worshipful William Hall, esq., mayor, at his house, and marched to the Cross, preceded by captain Dixon, with the company of grenadiers, where he joined the rest of the regiment. The proclamation having been read at the various places, the cannon on the walls were fired, and the gentlemen repaired again to the Cross, where they drank his majesty's health, and the health of all the royal family. After each health the Northumberland militia fired a volley, with three huzzas from the assembled multitude. The grenadier company then marched back in the same order to the mayor's house, where an elegant entertainment was given by the corporation to the officers, a handsome present to the soldiers, and several hogsheads of strong beer to the populace. At night the town was illuminated. The like was done with great splendour at all the neighbouring towns.—*Ibid.*

November 9.—Sunday, and four succeeding days, there was a continued rain, with the wind E. and N.E. which raised the waters in the neighbouring counties so much, as to render the rivers in many places impassable; at Sunderland bridge, near Durham, the mail for London was obliged to be taken out of the carriage, and was with difficulty got forward on horseback on the following day; and the mail from the north did not arrive at Newcastle till the following Thursday morning at five o'clock.—*Gillespy's Col.*

High house chapel, (Wesleyan methodist) Forest-quarter, Stanhope, Durham, founded. The register of births and baptisms 245 entries, extending from 1813 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

This year, a large gateway tower which stood at the city end of Framwellgate bridge, Durham, was taken down for the convenience of carriages.—*View of the City of Durham.*

A part of the crowded buildings which stood on the north pillars of Elvet bridge, in the city of Durham, were this year removed.—*Surtess.*



1760.—“A small brass image of one of the Lares—a ring engraven with the figure of Victory on a rough cornelian, and a curious effigy in relief of a Roman soldier, on a white ragstone, were found at the Roman station of *Caervorran*, in Northumberland, this year. The figure was about fourteen inches in height, helmetted and clothed in a pallium or light robe, flowing to his feet, clasped on his breast with a fibula; in his right hand, armed with the hasta, and resting his left on a parma or shield, supported on a pedestal: above his shoulder, the figures of a stag seized by a lion.” Hutchinson, who records the discovery of these antiquities, informs us that at the period when he visited the station (1766) there were innumerable Roman remains, fragments of inscriptions, broken effigies, millstones and other things, on the walls about the farm house near the station. Of some of these, not previously published, he has given engravings in his “View of Northumberland,” from which work the cuts in the margin are copied, with the exception of the second and third which are from the originals in the colonnade of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle. The uppermost, a large flat stone, on which a small altar is cut in relief, served as the cover to a bench at the door of the house. *Caervorran* is situated within the manor and township of *Blenkinsop*. Camden says this station stood “on the slope of a hill, a little within the wall, where are to be seen the foundations of a square Roman camp, each side of which is one hundred and forty paces long. The foundations of buildings, and tracks of streets still appear here very evident to the view,” When *Horsley* was here, the ramparts of the ditch were very conspicuous. *Wallis* says “the ground within it is four and a half acres, as measured by Mr. Walker, the surveyor of the military road through Cumberland.

At the east end of it a human skeleton was found by the workmen employed in *digging up the foundations for making the road*; the osseous parts, particularly the skull and teeth, fresh and fair, but on being exposed to the air the whole turned to dust.”—*Hutchinson. Hodgson, &c.*

1760.—This year, as a mason, named Robinson, was angling in the river Tyne, at Bywell, after a flood, he took up a small silver cup, of Roman fabric, as it was rolling on the waves, full of earth, with this inscription round the neck, “*Desideri vivas.*” He sold it to Mr. Langlands, goldsmith in Newcastle, for 15s., of whom it was soon after claimed by William Fenwick, esq., as lord of the manor of Bywell. It was probably washed out of the banks above Corbridge, where other Roman vessels of silver are said to have been formerly turned out by the floods.—*Wallis's Northd., &c.*



BYWELL CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND.

This year, Gosforth house, near Newcastle, was erected from a design by Payne. It is a large and elegant structure of white free-stone, and being seated on a rising ground, has a commanding and beautiful appearance. The fish pond is very capacious, covering upwards of fifty-three acres. It is the resort of innumerable flocks of water fowl.—*Mackenzie.*

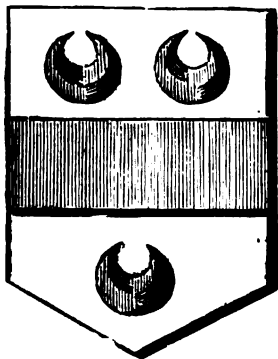
1761 (Jan.)—As some workmen were digging in a plantation at Shawdon, in Northumberland, they found two Roman urns containing

human bones. They were of a globular form, about 18 inches in diameter, and were made of a bluish earth. Near the urns was also found a stone chest or coffin, and on digging further, an entire foundation of a triangular building, with three rows of steps, and also a Roman causeway.—*Local Papers.*

1761 (Feb. 17).—Tuesday morning, a fire broke out in a carver's house, adjoining Byker-staith, Newcastle, belonging to Matthew Ridley, esq., which entirely consumed the same, together with the smith's and waggon-wright's shops adjoining; and, had not the wind luckily shifted about, in all probability the staith, which contained some thousand chaldrons of coals, would also have been destroyed, as the flames had got hold of part of the staith.—*Gillespy's Col.*

February 26.—Mr. William Scott, (afterwards lord Stowell) son of William Scott, esq., of Newcastle, and who was educated in the royal free grammar school there, by the late rev. Hugh Moises, was preferred to his opponents, and unanimously chosen scholar of Corpus Christi college, Oxford, for his great proficiency in classical learning, though he was then only fifteen years of age. December 14th, 1764, Mr. Scott was elected fellow of the university college, Oxford, and on the 10th of June, 1766, he took his degree of M. A. in the same university. In December, 1773, Mr. Scott was elected, in full convocation, Camden professor of history in that university.—*Local Rec.*

At the same time, one of the medals given by his grace the duke of Newcastle, to the two best classical scholars of the year, in the university of Cambridge, was adjudged to Mr. Robert Maddison, who had also been educated in the royal free grammar school, in Newcastle, by the rev. Mr. Moises.—*Ibid.*



February 28.—Died at Cawsey park, Northumberland, Henry Ogle, esq., high sheriff of that county in 1737. This gentleman, built the school at Cawsey park bridge, and by provisions of his will, endowed it with about two acres of land lying contiguous to it, and with a rent charge of £15. a year, for "teaching 30 children, boys and girls," who are inhabitants of the township. He also vested £140. in the hands of the minister and chapel-wardens

of Hebburn, near Morpeth, directing the interest of it to be annually divided amongst the poor. The principal of this sum is now in the Morpeth savings bank.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

February.—At the latter end of this month, a great deal of disturbance about the balloting for the militia took place in Northum-

berland and Durham. On Saturday the 26th, the mob having got a paper printed,* came to Gateshead, in number about a thousand, and delivered it among the deputy-lieutenants, who were met to ballot for a few vacancies. The gentlemen, to avoid mischief, agreed to excuse them for that time at their expence (save a trifle from those on whom the lots fell), as only about a dozen were wanted in the ward. They then went peaceably home, but swore they would stand to their proposal as in their printed paper, whenever a general balloting happened again, and, at the same time, begged his majesty might be petitioned to alter the act. After the affair at Gateshead, the pitmen, waggonmen, husbandmen, and servants, in the county of Northumberland, (for of such the mobs mostly consisted,) having taken into their heads, that the Durham people of their station had got exempt from the ballot by the rise they had made, assembled on Monday the 2d of March, in great numbers at Morpeth, and not meeting with such indulgence as they expected, obliged the deputy-lieutenants and justices to quit their duty for their own safety, no military force being at hand; the rioters then seized all the lists and books relative to the militia, from the constables, and tore or burnt them before their eyes. The next day, they went to Whittingham, twenty miles up the country, and acted in much the same manner. Flushed with such success and reinforced to near five thousand, they made a similar attempt at Hexham, but had not the like success. March the 9th, the deputy-lieutenants met at Hexham, pursuant to advertisement, to receive lists from the constables, of the persons in Tindale ward liable to serve in the militia, and being previously informed from several parts of the county, that a great number of persons were determined to assemble in a riotous manner, to prevent such lists being delivered in, detachments from the two battalions of Yorkshire militia, quartered at Newcastle, were, at the request of the deputy lieutenants and justices, ordered by colonel Duncombe, under the command of major Crowe, from thence to Hexham. Perhaps the most accurate and authentic account of the melancholy proceedings in this affair, is that written by an officer of the North York militia, (William Allen,) taken from his diary in the possession of sir C.

"Durham, Feb. 27, 1761."

* "This is to give notice to all in general, that it is far from the hearts of any of us that is here met to day, to be any ways inclined to be Rebellious against his Royal Majesty; but, far from it, only what common men desire, is men of estates to hire men for the militia as they were formerly; being very fit that they who have lands should hire men to maintain them; for it is a thing that none of us will submit to, to be balloted after this manner, as it is in vain to enlist or draw any belonging to this our county: for we are resolved not to let any man go out amongst us after this manner." "God save his Majesty King George the Third."

Sharp. It is as follows:—"Newcastle, March 7.—Received orders for two companies of each battalion to march early to morrow-morning, for Hexham, in order to put a stop to riotous assemblies, intended to be held there on Monday, to obstruct the deputy-lieutenants' balloting for the militia. Sunday 8th.—Arrived safe at Hexham, at ten—found the people all resolute and determined to rise, from a notion that those who assembled at Newcastle, had their grievances redressed. Sir Rt. Bewick, sir Lancelot Allgood, Fenwick, &c. &c. supped with us. Monday 9th.—At nine were under arms—at ten marched to the town-hall with the justices—took possession of all the avenues leading to the hall, and drew up our men in the market place—captain Fielding and his company were posted in the yard. The gentlemen proceeded to business, and all the men, who gave in their names and had petitions to present, I conducted through the ranks two at a time, and carried up to the gentlemen. The petitions they presented were of a treasonable nature, tending to obstruct the execution of the laws; and though they professed all duty and allegiance to the king, yet they declared one and all that they would not be balloted for. The gentlemen told them that they would not dispense with the execution of the law, and though, however hard it might be, yet, as justices, they were obliged to act under it as it then stood. Their numbers greatly increased; and about twelve, two horns were blown, and every reinforcement they received was ushered in with loud huzzas. One of the men who blew the horns (at my instance) was apprehended, but the gentlemen thought proper to release him, after taking his name and place of abode. At one, they had increased to near five thousand, and greatly insulted our men, who for upwards of three hours bore it with the greatest coolness and moderation. At one or a little after, the proclamation was read, and they were acquainted with the penalty they incurred if they did not disperse. They still continued waving their monstrous sticks, clubs, and quarter-staffs, in a most insolent manner over the heads of our men, for by this time they had come within reach of our bayonets, with which our front rank stood charged; and soon after, they made a vigorous effort upon our left and broke in upon them; one of the ring-leaders seized the firelock of a man of captain Blomberg's company, turned upon the man and shot him dead upon the spot; at the same time, ensign Hart was shot by a pistol from one of the mob, upon which the word of command was given to fire, as it then became an act of necessity and self-defence. The men were immediately formed again, and the fire became general from right to left. The grenadiers fired but once, which cleared our front, and in a minute's time there was scarce a man left but the dead and wounded. As

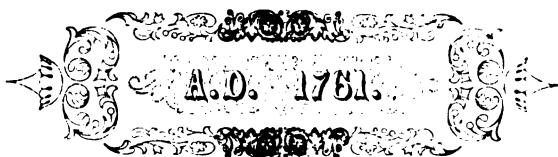
soon as ever the smoke of the first fire cleared away, and I saw the resistance had ceased, I ran up and down the line to make the men give over firing—for many random shots still continued, and the balls whistled by me both on right and left, but providentially I received not the least harm. Thanks be to heaven, my endeavours met with immediate success, and I found major Crowe and captain Hill employed upon the same business; and now we had an opportunity of contemplating the bloody scene before us, twenty-four being left upon the spot, eighteen of whom were dead, and the rest dangerously wounded. This was a spectacle that hurt humanity, for now all resistance was over, compassion took place. We seized upon all their clubs, but took no prisoners, because the gentlemen chose to have them apprehended in a regular way by afterwards issuing their peace-warrants. Col. Duncombe's detachment had one officer mortally wounded, one private killed upon the spot, and three wounded. The man who shot Mr. Hart was instantly despatched, as was the other man who killed the soldier. We had not so much as a single officer or soldier hurt; owing, I apprehend, to the care captain Revely and I took in keeping our front clear, for whenever they attempted to press upon us we made our men charge their bayonets, and Revely and I advanced with ours at the same time, and made them give way. Finding no impression was to be made there, they altered their plan, and made their attack as before mentioned, which was foolish and desperate to the last degree. Our men behaved with the greatest steadiness that troops could possibly do, and the officers with a resolution that shewed they were not backward in obeying their orders. At four, marched our men to the abbey, and lodged them altogether in the great old hall. At eight went to see poor Hart; found him resigned and quite sensible, and spoke very cheerfully, but said he could not continue long. Tuesday 10th, ensign Hart died, this morning at five. No disturbance at all; a very wet day which was of service, as it washed the remains of yesterday out of the market place. At six all the officers and gentlemen attended the funeral of ensign Hart—the officers supported the pall—the men marched with reversed arms and the drums beat the dead march, and every honour was paid him, except the firing, which was omitted, lest it should give umbrage to those who had lost friends in the affair, as many people were now come to town to challenge the dead and wounded. Buried the soldier at the same time. Fourteen of the rioters buried to night and others carried home, and some remained unowned. All quiet." August 17th, at the assizes held in Newcastle, by adjournment, for the county of Northumberland, and which ended on the following day, Peter Patterson and William Elder (two of the Hexham rioters) were attained of

high treason, and received the following sentence ;—"To be drawn upon a hurdle to the place of execution, on Wednesday, the 30th day of September next, and then and there severally hanged by the neck, to be severally cut down alive, and have their entrails taken out and burnt before their faces, to have their heads severed from their bodies, and their bodies afterwards severally divided into four quarters, and their heads and quarters disposed at his majesty's pleasure." August 26th, the high-sheriff of Northumberland received a respite for Patterson and Elder, to the 5th of October, when Peter Patterson was executed at Morpeth. He behaved with a becoming decency. A disagreeable circumstance attended the execution of Patterson ; the noose of the rope gave way, and he fell down before he was dead, the cart was then ordered back, and a new halter made use of, and after he had hung the time that the law required, his body was cut down and dismembered, according to his sentence. It is said that after he fell down he exclaimed "*Innocent blood is ill to shed!*" A further respite had previously arrived for William Elder, and at the assizes in August, 1762, he was pardoned. According to a MS. in the possession of Mr. John Bell of Gateshead, land-surveyor, written about the time of the riot, by Mr. — Armstrong, an attorney, then residing in Hexham, in which the names, residences, occupations, &c. of the sufferers are minutely detailed, the number of killed was 52, and that of the wounded 49.



ABBAY CHURCH, HEXHAM.

CHAPTER V.



DIED, on the 26th of June, 1761, Henry Lambton, of Lambton, esq., eldest son of Ralph Lambton, of Lambton, esq., nephew to William Lambton, esq., who represented the county of Durham in 1685, &c., and great grandson of sir William Lambton, who died in the royal cause at Marston moor. He represented the city of Durham in five successive parliaments, with unshaken loyalty to his king, and the utmost honour to himself: being neither biassed by party

nor private interest, but always a strenuous advocate for liberty, and firmly attached to the good of his country, and in whom his constituents, on every occasion, found a sincere and steady friend.—*Sharp's Burg. of Dur.*

July 11.—About ten o'clock at night, came on at Newcastle, the loudest peals of thunder that had been known for many years, and continued most part of the night; the lightning was most dreadful; the flashes followed each other so fast, that the firmament seemed one continued blaze. Mr. Ord, of Sands, near Sedgfield, was killed by the lightning on his return from Durham. Several sheep and cattle, in different parts of Northumberland, were killed. The rivers and brooks, were by a heavy rain, swelled to an uncommon height, and great damage was done to the houses and lands adjoining. At Rothbury, the following day, there was a violent storm of rain, hail, wind, thunder, and lightning, several sheep were killed on the hills, and the rivulets, which trickled down the sides of the mountains, were in a few minutes swelled to mighty rivers, which rushed down in such rapid torrents, that the earth was ploughed up in their way, and large beds of gravel and huge stones rolled into the town of Roth-

bury, the streets of which were broken up and guttered to a great depth, and the sand and stones thrown into heaps against the houses, particularly in the lower part of the town, which was under water, as well as the ground lying behind, by which means a great deal of damage was done, particularly in a garden of Mr. Fletcher's, where at least one hundred tons of large stones and gravel were thrown, and under these several thousand quicks and firs entirely buried and destroyed. The storm did not last above an hour, but the havoc during that time was dreadful and astonishing.—*Local Papers.*

1761 (Aug. 6).—Two hundred and sixty salmon were taken in the Tyne, at Newburn, near Newcastle, at one draught.—*Ibid.*

August 21.—A fire broke out in a skinner's workshop, without Pilgrim street gate, Newcastle, which in a short time consumed the same, though all possible assistance was given. The mayor and other magistrates attended, and the East York regiment of militia, commanded by sir Digby Legard, were under arms.—*Ibid.*

September 1.—George Wilson, of Harbottle, in Northumberland, aged upwards of 100 years, was married at Alwinton, in the same county, to Lilly Forbes, being his fourth wife, aged 51. By the two first of his wives, he had sixteen children. In 1688, he was impressed as a soldier. The curiosity of seeing the wedding of a man of his age, drew together a numerous and genteel company from great distances, who, in regard to his general good character, &c., made a handsome collection. He died, August 22nd, 1763, in the 104th year of his age, and possessed great vigour till within ten days of his death. He had been a subject to eight kings and queens of England.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—When the news arrived in Newcastle of the princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg (afterwards consort of king George III.) having landed safe at Harwich, every demonstration of joy was exhibited. On the following day, when the news of the marriage of king George III. and the princess Charlotte arrived in Newcastle, the inhabitants again testified their joy by the ringing of bells, drinking loyal healths, &c.—*Ibid.*

September 22.—The coronation of their majesties, king George III. and queen Charlotte, was observed in Newcastle with every possible token of loyalty and affection. The morning was ushered in by peals of bells and firing of guns, which was repeated at intervals during the day. At ten o'clock, the gentlemen volunteers fired three excellent vollies at the artillery ground, as did also the militia, on the Sandhill, at noon, where a fountain with wine, ornamented with a gilt crown, and the inscription "God save King George and Queen Charlotte," was opened, and several loyal healths were drunk. Soon after, the magistrates, officers, &c., went to dine at the mansion-

house, and the fountain, which ran wine near two hours at both sides, was left for the populace to regale themselves at; the whole number of people assembled was computed at 10,000. At night the town was splendidly illuminated; not only the houses were lighted, but the churches, offices, exchange, and other public buildings; and being a fine night, the balustrades of several gentlemen's houses, and the public fountains, or water fountains, were bedecked with candles as thick as possible. Many curious and suitable inscriptions appeared; one gentleman, in particular, had a crown, finely ornamented, and set round with lighted candles, which turned upon an axis, horizontally, for several hours, the vessels in the river were also illuminated, and the ship, Royal Oak, had 200 lamps, suspended in the rigging, &c. The evening was concluded by a concert and ball, at the expense of the corporation, and the master and brethren of the Trinity-house had an elegant entertainment in their hall, where their majesties' and other loyal healths were drank, during which, royal salutes were fired on the Quay. Sir Walter Blackett, bart., that the joy might be more generally diffused among all ranks of people, ordered £50. to be distributed to the poor inhabitants, and the prisoners in the gaol. In Gateshead, several curious fire works were displayed; the houses and the church steeple were brilliantly illuminated. The whole was concluded with the utmost decorum, no mischief or accident having happened. Similar demonstrations of joy were exhibited at Berwick, and all the principal towns in the district.—*Local Papers*.

October 12.—The river Tees rose so high by previous heavy rains in the north, that it overflowed the town of Yarm, but the event being foreseen the danger was provided against, so that no considerable damage ensued. The Stockton ferry boat was driven from her moorings and lost, and a flock of sheep were driven from a meadow in which they were feeding. A sloop laden with wheat sunk and another was driven to sea.—*Gent's. Mag.*

October.—A new clock, with chimes, made by Mr. Walker, in the Close, Newcastle, was put up in St. Nicholas' church, in that town.—*Local Papers*.

November 9.—There was so great a flood in the Wansbeck, that



the arches of the old bridge at Morpeth were nearly filled, and the overflowing of the river ran down Oldgate and Bridge street to the east end of the town.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

November.—The bridge of Glenwhelt, on the military road and confines of Northumberland, was broken down and swept away by the rivulet, which had been raised to a great height by incessant rains. The bridge across the Tyne at Ridley hall was also carried away, and much damage was done at various other places by the overflowing of the waters.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 23.—A fire broke out in the house of Mr. John Henzell, at the middle glasshouses, near Newcastle, which destroyed the same, together with the furniture, before it could be got under. The military and the gentlemen having the direction of the engines gave very prompt assistance.—*Ibid.*

December 1.—An explosion took place in the colliery at Hartley, by which unfortunate event, Mr. Curry, the viewer, and four others lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

December 8.—Tuesday morning a pit at Long-Benton fired, and burnt a horse-driver in a terrible manner, but providentially did no further damage, though the pit was full of men.—*Ibid.*

December 12.—The great contest for the representation of the city of Durham, betwixt major-general John Lambton and Ralph Gowland, esq., was concluded. On this occasion two hundred and fifteen *mushroom* freemen were admitted to vote; these gave Mr. Gowland a majority, and he took his seat in the house. When the occasional or *mushroom* freemen, made expressly for the purpose of Mr. Gowland were set aside, general Lambton had a majority of one hundred and ninety-two, in consequence of which the general petitioned the house of commons, and, on the 11th of May, 1762, it was resolved by a majority of eighty-eight to seventy-two, that the occasional freemen had no right to vote, and the return was ordered to be amended by *raising* out the name of Ralph Gowland, and inserting that of John Lambton, esq. General Lambton made a sort of *joyeuse entree* into the city of Durham on the 18th of June, 1762, being met at Sunderland bridge by a great number of the freemen, with music, drums, colours, banners, and every other ensign of honour. At Elvet bridge he left his carriage, and was chaired through the principal streets to the Queen's head.—*Surtees.*

December 30.—Died, W. Featherstone, esq., of and at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. On Monday the 24th of January, 1762, Mr. Featherstone's fine stud of twenty-seven high bred horses was sold in Newcastle, in one lot, for 2020 guineas to lord Grosvenor.—*Gent's Mag.*

Ford castle, which in Leland's time was "meatly strong, but in

decay," was rebuilt by the late lord Delaval in the above year.—*Hodgson's Northd.*, 8vo.



The interesting tablet here represented, was found, at the Roman station of *Æsica*, or Great Chesters, in Northumberland, in 1761. It was carved in commemoration of the rebuilding of a granary by the second cohort of the Astures in the time of Alexander Severus, and seems to be dated when Maximus was Legate in Britain and consul

with Dexter in 233. It is now in the colonnade of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle.

This year, *Dormer Parkhurst*, esq., then master of Greatham, began to erect an hospital there, for six poor widows or spinsters, being fifty years of age, for whom he built six neat separate apartments, with a plot of ground to each. The buildings were completed the next year. Each inmate receives £1. per month, 4s. at Christmas, 2s. at Whitsuntide, and 2s. at Easter; a gown once a-year, and a reasonable quantity of coals. The deed of endowment bears date October 12th, 1762. See the year 1272.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

The burial ground attached to the church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, was this year, enclosed with a brick wall, surmounted by a strong wooden railing, the expence of which was defrayed by a subscription, opened for the purpose, at the suggestion of the rev. Dr. Brown, vicar, and for improving the burial ground, in order to render it a more agreeable approach to the church, as well as a decent place of interment of the dead. There was left a convenient passage all around it, on the outside, for foot passengers.—*Churchwardens' Books.*

1762.—An act was obtained to build a bridge across the Tees above the town of Stockton, at or near unto, and instead of, the ferry used as a passage over the river. The foundation stone was laid 23rd of August, 1764, and the structure was completed in April, 1771. The bridge has five arches; the span of the central arch is seventy-two feet; of the two arches nearest the centre sixty feet, and of the two extreme arches forty-four feet; the centre arch is twenty-three feet from low-water mark. The carriage-road is eighteen feet, and three more are allowed for a raised causeway for foot passengers. The undertaking cost £8000. raised by shares, carrying an interest not exceeding five *per cent.* It was provided by the act, that when the incumbrances should be discharged, the bridge should become

a free bridge. This was effected by a toll which ceased, January 1, 1820.—*Surtees*.

1762 (Jan. 9).—War was declared against Spain at the usual places in Newcastle. The ceremony was performed by the sheriff's sergeant in the presence of the mayor, the magistrates, and other officers of the town. The procession was greeted by the populace, who signified their approbation by loud huzzas and acclamations.—*Newc. Cour.*

January 19.—Buried, "William Morley, Watchmaker." (*St. Nicholas' Register*.) This singular individual, whose real name was Moraley, was of good family and the heir to a considerable paternal estate, which was spent in reckless extravagance and eventually he had to make a living as a watchmaker in Newcastle:—He published in 1743, an account of various transactions, which had occurred to himself, previous to that year, under the title of "The Unfortunate: or, the Voyage and Adventurers of William Moraley of Moraley in Northumberland, Gent." The late Mr. J. R. Wilson, had a copy of this extremely scarce tract, which at his sale, was purchased by Mr. Thomas Bell, land-surveyor, a work abounding in extraordinary and romantic incidents, but which is understood to have been a faithful record of the circumstances of his early life.

February 26.—The post proceeding from Newcastle to Durham, was overturned, and while the boy went to get assistance, the carriage was broken open, and the mails stolen, in which there were bills from the merchants of Newcastle, to the amount of £10,000. It is remarkable that the Scotch mail was not meddled with.—*Gent's Mag.*

March 23.—Died, Mr. John Jopling, of Barnardcastle, aged 108 years. He retained his faculties to the last, and what was remarkable, he had been bled once a-year for many years.—*Newc. Cour.*

April 13.—The twin-daughters of the right worshipful Aubone Surtees, esq., mayor of Newcastle, were baptized at St. Nicholas' church by the names of Barbara and Ann. The company on the occasion was of the most brilliant description, and the ladies were preceded on their return to the mansion-house, by the town's band of music (waits), and saluted with peals of bells.—*Newc. Jour.*

April 21.—A black boy from the Malabar coast, who was brought over in admiral Pocock's fleet, was baptized at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, by the name of Thomas Gateshead.—*Ibid.*

June 16.—A girl, at Tanfield, in the county of Durham, going with a lighted link, to burn some whins, a spark blew from it and set fire to a stack of straw, which was communicated to some thatched cottage houses, and twenty-five of them were burnt before it could be extinguished.—*Ibid.*

July 9.—William Forster and William Bramble, apprentices to a

nailor, at Winlaton, being at work together, and Bramble jesting Forster about a piece of work he was doing, and innocently striking him with his hat, Forster, intending to strike it out of his hand with an iron rod he was working with, unfortunately run it into his breast; and being hot, wounded him so much, that though he was immediately carried to the Infirmary, at Newcastle, and all proper care taken of him, he died on the 12th.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1762 (Aug. 9).—Thomas Coulson was executed at Durham, for the murder of Thomas Byers, of Sunderland.—*Newc. Cour.*

August 15.—The birth of an heir to the crown of these kingdoms (king George IV.), on the 12th of this month, was celebrated in Newcastle, by the ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of joy; and an address of congratulation to his majesty on the happy event was forwarded from the mayor and corporation of that town, which was presented by the earl of Northumberland. Similar rejoicings took place at Durham, and at night that city was brilliantly illuminated. Addresses of congratulation were also sent from the county of Northumberland, and the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed.—*Local Papers.*

August.—A large stone, computed to weigh upwards of 20 tons, commonly called *the Grey Mare*, was taken out of the river Tyne, opposite the glass-houses, below the bridge, at Newcastle. It was weighed up with keels, under the direction of captain Errington, the town's surveyor.—*Newc. Cour.*



GLASS-HOUSE BRIDGE, NEWCASTLE.

1762 (September 11).—Two little boys, the one five, the other three years of age, sons to a gentleman in Pilgrim street, Newcastle, being tempted by the beautiful appearance of the fruit of the Deadly Nightshade, as it grew in the garden, eat of it. The eldest died the night after, and the youngest after continuing 16 hours in convulsions, by taking oil, was happily recovered.—*Gent's Mag.*

September 23.—Thursday night, there was a violent storm of wind at S. E. which did considerable damage in Newcastle, blowing down many chimneys, and unroofing several houses. Nine keels were sunk in the river Tyne, mostly light, but no lives were lost. In the country adjacent, the storm was general, many stacks of corn, trees, and chimnies having been blown down.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 27.—St. Ann's chapel, Newcastle, having become ruinous and being too small to contain the inhabitants of the eastern district of that town, the right worshipful Aubone Surtees, esq., mayor, the aldermen, and common council, on the above day, unanimously resolved that a neat and commodious chapel, and in a more convenient situation, should be built at the expence of the corporation.—*Local Papers.*

October.—In the beginning of this month, a man with a draught, about to cross Eltringham-ford, Northumberland, a person of that neighbourhood warned him of his danger, as the river was too high to do it with safety; but the caution being disregarded by the man, he attempted it, and drove his cattle in, when, by the rapidity of the current, they were carried down, and the man, two oxen, and one horse were drowned; another horse broke his traces and escaped.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 22, Monday.—The town clerk's office in Newcastle was broke open, and robbed of a considerable sum of money. A person named Barnes was apprehended on suspicion, and afterwards confessed that he with one Gaul, purposed during the winter to have robbed Mr. Dalton, goldsmith, having already poisoned his shop dog.—*Gent's Mag.*

November.—About the close of this month a Scotch smuggler put into Holy Island, pretending to be bound from Holland to Norway. Two Custom-House officers being put on board, the captain immediately hove up his anchors and put to sea, carrying them and the king's boat with him; and having put the officers into the boat, and given them a bottle of brandy and some biscuit, wished them well on shore, where they arrived safe, though greatly disappointed in their expectations of a valuable seizure.—*Gillespy's Col.*

December.—As two men were driving a bull from a field on the north road, near Stannington, he broke from them and leaped over a

hedge, under which two women were resting themselves, and falling on them, one was killed instantly, and the other much hurt.—*Newc. Gen. Mag.*

1762 (Dec. 27).—When John Tweddell, esq., of Unthank, Northumberland, was hunting on the rocky moor of Ramshaw, one of the party searching for a hare, found in a cavity of the rocks, a large quantity of silver coins of Edward the first and second.—(*Newcastle Courant*) Probably left there by some soldier in the pursuit of the Scotch army from Stanhope park in 1327.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

Spring Garden-lane Chapel, (Presbyterian) Sunderland, founded. The register of baptisms extending from 1766 to 1824 and from 1826 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

This year, in digging up some of the foundations of the Roman station at *Caercoorran*, in Northumberland, some very large coal cinders were turned up, which glowed in the fire like other cinders, and were not known from them when taken out. This is an incontestable proof that the Romans were well acquainted with our pit coal.—*Local. Rec.*

In digging a grave in a pew under one of the windows of Simonburn church, in Northumberland, this year, a very remarkable skull was turned up with the spade; on the back part of it, the figure of a large escallop-shell; at one of the auditories, the figure of a torcular shell, like a screw. (*Wallis*) It has been frequently regretted that Mr. Wallis should have treated of this great curiosity so slightly. "He does not even say," observes Hutchinson, "whether these impressions were sculptured, or adhesions of petrified matter. In either case, it would have gratified the virtuoso to have had a perfect description. We read of that degree of wantonness and inhumanity, that the skulls of enemies, at public festivals, were used for drinking cups. Was this ornamented with sculpture, it would lead to an apprehension it was once employed in such unhallowed rites. If these were petrifications, it would still be more wonderful."



SIMONBURN CHURCH.

1762.—About this year, Rowland Wetherald, a teacher of mathematics, settled in Sunderland, and was the first printer in that town. He commenced in the High-street, and afterwards removed to Maud's-lane, where the business was carried on till his death, which happened June 19th, 1791.—*Garbutt's Hist. of Sunderland.*



1763 (Jan. 10).—Workmen began to pull down that part of the town-wall which extended from the Sandhill along the quay to Sandgate, Newcastle, the corporation of that town having, on their petition, obtained an order of the privy council to remove it at their own expence.—(*Brand*). The above engraving, from Buck's view of Newcastle, published in 1745, shews the wall at Sandhill corner where it adjoined the Maison de Dieu, founded by Roger Thornton about the beginning of the reign of king Henry IV.

January 17.—On account of the indisposition of the chief magistrate of Newcastle, a meeting of the common-council was held at the mansion house, and the guild in the town's-court, and on the 19th (Wednesday) the general quarter sessions of the peace were held in the mansion-house on the same account.—*Local Papers.*

January 18.—After several weeks of severe frost, most of the rivers in this part of the country were so effectually frozen over, as to render them capable of sustaining a number of persons for miles together. The river Wear, upon which there was a clear passage from Chester-le-street to Durham, was greatly resorted to by the gentlemen of that neighbourhood for the exercise of skaiting. At Alnwick during this intense frost, skaiting was much practised on the river there, particularly on the above day, which was celebrated as the anniversary of her majesty's birth, when a great concourse of people assembled to see the performances of the skaiters, who had a tent fixed on the ice wherein they dined, and the ladies who went as spectators were regaled with wine, &c. At Hexham, a whole sheep

was roasted upon the ice, and great numbers assembled to witness the various diversions which were going on daily.—*Local Papers*.

1763 (Feb.)—One night in the beginning of this month, a poor woman went to a farmer's house in the neighbourhood of Brancepeth, and begged for lodgings, on which she was permitted to go into the barn, where she went to rest. But about two o'clock next morning she was suddenly awakened by a sudden rattling at the door, which was soon forced open by two or three men, who entered with a number of sacks, and began to fill them with unwinnowed corn. In the meanwhile the woman lay quiet, till one of the intruders cursing his companions for not bringing another man to hold the sacks, she jumped up, and offered her assistance, crying, *I'll hold the pokes for you*; on which they all fled in the utmost confusion, leaving several of the sacks behind them.—*Gillespy's Col.*

Feb. 16.—Died at East Thirston, in the parish of Felton, Northumberland, Mr. Thomas Heron, aged 109 years.—*Local Papers*.

February 18.—The petitions of the right worshipful Cuthbert Smith, esq., mayor, and the common council of Newcastle, and that of the inhabitants of the same corporation for lighting the streets of that town, were presented to parliament.—*Ibid.*

February 23.—A fire engine cylinder was landed at Wincomblee coal-staith, on the river Tyne, for the use of Walker colliery, which surpassed every thing of the kind which had been seen in the north. The diameter of the bore measured upwards of 74 inches, and it was 10½ feet in length. Its weight, exclusive of the bottom and the piston, was 6½ tons, containing altogether between 10 and 11 tons of metal. The bore was turned perfectly round and well polished. It was considered a complete piece of work, and did honour to Colebrook Dale foundry in Shropshire, where it was manufactured. When the engine to which this cylinder was attached was completed, it would have a force to raise above 307 cwt of water.—*Ibid.*

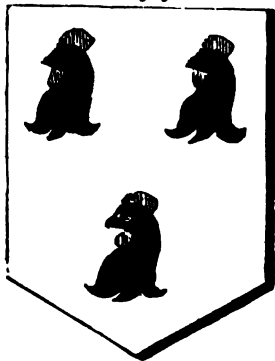
February.—Died, at Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, Thomas Pratt, aged 115 years. His faculties were so strong, that he sang a song a few days before he died.—*Ibid.*

March 11.—It blew a hurricane of wind at South-East. Two ships were wrecked near Sunderland harbour. A sloop, in attempting to enter the harbour at Shields, was upset, and all hands were drowned. A large vessel, name unknown, attempting the harbour at Holy Island, struck on the Megstone, and immediately sunk; all the crew perished. Another, a brigantine, very near the entrance of the bar, shared the same misfortune; a third, a sloop belonging to Lynn, and laden with coals from Sunderland, soon succeeded to the fate of the former. The Nancy, a brigantine belonging to Plymouth, laden

also with coals from the same port, missing the bar, overset among the breakers, and immediately righting again, drove upon the rocks at the Castle-point; but four of her hands were saved, by the assistance of a boat from the shore. The rest, among whom was the master, having been washed overboard. A ship, appearing to be pretty large, was seen upon one of the Farn Islands. One also sunk to the eastward of the Islands, and another overset, lay floating in the Fairway. Half a sloop was driven ashore near Berwick, and the fore-part of another smaller one near Budle. In short the shores were strewed with wrecks and dead bodies, and of about twenty sail which got safe into Holy Island, many had lost their masts, and otherwise received damage; and the men were generally half-dead with hardship and fatigue.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1763.—(March 11).—As some men were digging in Axwell park, Durham, they discovered an urn with a little dust in it, and, by going further, they found a large stone coffin, in which was a skull with the teeth very fresh, and several bones of a great size.—*Local Papers.*

March 29.—The right worshipful the mayor and aldermen of Newcastle, attended by their officers, proclaimed the peace with France and Spain at the usual places with the accustomed formalities, amidst a great concourse of the inhabitants, who expressed their satisfaction by the most joyful acclamations.—*Ibid.*



March 30.—Died, at his seat at Blagdon, sir Matthew White, bart. He was high-sheriff of Northumberland in 1756, in which year he received the honour of knighthood; and on May 8, was created a baronet, with remainder to the heirs male of his sister Elizabeth, wife of Matthew Ridley, esq. He was a colonel in the Northumberland militia, and a vice-president of the Infirmary, at Newcastle. He was buried at All Saints' church.—*Hodgson's Northd. &c.*

April.—An act for lighting the streets, and other places, and maintaining a nightly watch within the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne; and for regulating the hackney coachmen and chairmen, cartmen, porters, and watermen, within the same; received the royal assent. The public lamps set up in Newcastle, pursuant to act of parliament, were lighted for the first time, and the watchmen went their rounds in their several districts on the 29th of September the same year.—*Local Papers.*

April.—This month, workmen began laying the foundation of a new square at North Shields, called Dockwray square, the ground

having been the property of a gentleman of that name.—*Local Papers.*

1763 (April).—Died at Newbrough, in the parish of Warden, Northumberland, Alice Wilson, aged 111 years. She enjoyed good health till within three days of her death. There was living in the same parish, at the same time, a woman 115 years old, who rode abroad and practised midwifery.—*Gillespy's Col.*

May 1.—William Douglas, a felon, made his escape from the gaol of Newgate, Newcastle. He was confined for having robbed the office of his master, Mr. Armorer, in the Broad chare in that town.—*Local Papers.*

May 5.—Being the day appointed for a general thanksgiving for peace, at Newcastle, the morning was ushered in with ringing of bells, &c. Service was performed in the several churches, and at noon the magistrates and other gentlemen assembled on the Sandhill, where several excellent volleys were fired by the North British fusileers, after which, their majesties' healths were drank from a fountain running wine, erected for the occasion, and then left to the populace, who made excellent diversion. A grand entertainment was given at the mansion-house. In the evening there was an assembly, and the day concluded with illuminations, guns firing, &c.—*Ibid.*

May 12.—A concert of vocal and instrumental music was performed in the Spring-gardens, at the head of Gallowgate, Newcastle. Similar concerts were intended to be given every Thursday evening for sixteen weeks each summer. Tickets for the season half a guinea. Non-subscribers to pay one shilling each at the gate. The first night there was a most numerous and genteel audience, who expressed great satisfaction at the performances. The performers were several gentlemen of the choir at Durham, the band belonging lord George Lennox's regiment, and the town's music.—*Ibid.*

May 18, Wednesday.—The foundation stone of a new bridge over the Tweed, at Cornhill, was laid by the right hon. Alex. earl of Hume, in presence of the trustees appointed for that purpose. It is called the Union-bridge, and his lordship prayed stability to the work, that it might remain a monument of real union between the two people to the latest posterity.—*Gent's. Mag.*

May 26.—Died, at his son's house, at Axwell park lodge, Mr. Richard Teasdale, of Slaley, in Northumberland, aged 103.—*Local Papers.*

May.—A subscription was opened for the erection of a public hospital, in Newcastle, for the reception of lunatics belonging to the counties of Durham, Newcastle, and Northumberland, towards which sir Walter Blackett, bart. contributed £1,000.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1763 (May 31).—The old colours of the 25th regiment of foot (lord George Lennox's), quartered in Newcastle, being much *wounded* in Germany, and particularly at the glorious and ever memorable battle of Minden, were buried with military honours.—*Local Papers*.

June.—Died, near Stockton, Durham, Rachel Weatherby, aged 110 years. She could read without spectacles, and retained her memory to the last.—*Ibid*.

June.—This month, Joseph Oxley, of Russell's factory, near Newcastle, obtained a patent, for an invention of a machine for drawing coals out of coal-pits by the help of fire.—*Ibid*.

July 1.—Patent granted to Alex. Cockburn, of Berwick-upon-Tweed, fishmonger, for his new method of curing salmon with spices.—*Gent's. Mag*.

July.—Sir Edward Blackett, baronet, built a school at Matfen, Northumberland, for the children of his tenants, workmen, and labourers; and settled a salary upon a school-master to instruct them in reading, writing, and arithmetic.—*Gillespy's Col*.

August 1.—Margaret Middleton, alias Coulson, was executed at Durham. She had been employed by a township in Durham, to take a pauper child, called Lucy Elliott alias Curry, to Northallerton, its place of settlement. She received the wages of her journey beforehand, and carried the child only as far as the river Browney, not two miles from Durham, where she drowned it on the 24th June.—*Local Papers*.

August 8.—A beggar woman named Ann Forster, coming from Morpeth, met with a child about three years old, belonging to a person at Shotton Edge, near Blagdon, that had strayed a little way from home, she took it up and carried it off. Being soon missed, diligent search was made for it, but to no effect, till a dog which used to follow it, was observed to make motions to go towards Newcastle, on which they followed him to Gateshead, a distance of nine miles, when the father got intelligence of such a child being seen with a beggar woman, whom he soon found, took the child from her, and brought her before Matthew Ridley, esq., at Blagdon, who committed her to the house of correction at Morpeth.—*Ibid*.

August 23.—Tuesday, died, after thirty hours illness, William Williamson, D. D., rector of Whickham, one of the justices of the peace for the county of Durham, and brother of sir Hedworth Williamson, bart.—*Gillespy's Col*.

September 9.—Was launched from Airey and Company's yard, near Newcastle, a frigate, carrying twenty-eight guns, named the *Solebay*, of which captain William Hay was appointed commander.—*Ibid*.

1763 (Sep.).—Early in this month a ship belonging to Yarmouth took fire, by accident, in Sunderland harbour, when they cut away her masts and sunk her, by which means the fire was extinguished.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 15.—The earl of Northumberland having been appointed by his majesty king George III., lord lieutenant of Ireland, set out with his family and a splendid retinue, from Northumberland house, London, to enter upon that high office. The Middlesex militia were drawn out on Finchley common, in compliment to his lordship as he passed along; his lordship halted and reviewed them, and then passed on his journey. His lordship arrived at Dublin, on the 21st, and was received with great demonstrations of joy by all degrees of people.—*Local Rec.*

September.—There was in a gentleman's garden, in Durham, an old pear-tree, on which there was ripe fruit and blossoms at the same time; and what was remarkable, the tree had never been known to bear fruit before.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September.—Four millions of bricks were ordered to be made at Newcastle, for intended additions to Greenwich hospital.—*Ibid.*

October 8.—Was launched from Holy Island harbour, a vessel named the Sally, built by Mr. Edward Byram. It was a very handsome vessel of 25 keels.—*Local Papers.*

October 10.—By order of the postmaster-general, the mail from Newcastle to Edinburgh, and other parts of Scotland, was extended to twice a-week, namely on Mondays and Thursdays.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 12.—Wednesday, trial was made before several gentlemen concerned in the coal trade, and some eminent viewers, of a machine erected for sir John Hussey Delaval, bart. at Seaton, for which a patent had recently been obtained for drawing coals by fire; when they expressed great satisfaction, and declared it exceeded their expectations. It was looked upon as the greatest improvement in the coal trade since the fire engine.—*Ibid.*

October 23.—In the evening, Susannah Nicholson, a washerwoman, residing in the Back-row, Newcastle, with a small knife cut and mangled herself in a most cruel manner: she cut off her nose, and both her ears, the upper eyelids of both eyes, most part of the under lip and part of the upper; she also cut about four inches across her throat, and also cut off part of both her breasts, and finished her unparalleled cruelty by stabbing herself in the left side, which entered into the cavity of the breast. In this most awful and horrid state she lived until the next day. Coroner's verdict, *lunacy*. An account of this suicide found its way into the Paris papers, soon after it happened, and excited the horror and commiseration of all Europe.—*Brand.*

1763 (November 1).—A lodge of free masons was constituted at the house of Mr. John Fife, publican, Three Bull's Heads, in the



THE "THREE BULL'S HEADS," 1842.

Castle garth, Newcastle, in due form, under the sanction of the hon. Thomas Erskine, earl of Kelly, viscount Fenton, lord baron of Pittenweem, grand master of ancient masons in Great Britain.* The warrant of this lodge was No. 120, and though the date and place of its first establishment are not known, it is clear that it must have been in existence some considerable time previous to the above date, as there still exists a cash-book of the lodge which commences, April 5, 1763, John Fife, treasurer, and the first item is a balance of cash brought forward from some prior document. The first warrant of

constitution is dated the 19th day of September, 1763. The summons-plate which belonged to No. 120, was subsequently used by St. Nicholas' lodge, as late as the year 1786: what has become of the seals and certificate plates cannot now be ascertained.†

November 26.—This being the day on which lord Ossulston, son of the earl of Tankerville, attained his 21st year, it was magnificently celebrated at Chillingham castle, Wooler, and various other places.—*Local Papers.*

December 1.—Early in the morning it began to rain at Newcastle, with the wind at S. E., which continued that day with the wind very high and veering between E. and N. E. At night it blew in a tempestuous manner, when great damage was done to several houses by the fall of chimnies, &c.; and by the prodigious swell of the river, which was at least three feet higher than ever known, the shops, cellars, and warehouses, in the Close, Sandhill, Quayside, and Gateshead, were many of them filled with water. The damage was computed at upwards of £4,000. The water about two o'clock on the following morning, was full three feet deep between the town-wall and the houses on the Quayside. A quantity of timber floated half way up the Broad chare; and the sloop Billy, belonging to Newcastle,

* Local Records.

† Thompson's M.S.

lying opposite to the old Custom-house, was driven upon the quay, where she was left by the fall of the tide, but in the afternoon was safely launched, as were several keels and boats. Several houses above bridge, contiguous to the river, were laid under water. Some poor people lost part of their furniture; and an old woman was swept away from her house, near the Team; and an ox, which had broke loose from a slaughter-house at the Westgate, ran into the river and was drowned. At Shields, his majesty's ship Solebay, and about 20 light and laden colliers, broke from their moorings and drove towards the bar; but the weather soon after becoming temperate, and the wind changing to the southward, the Solebay and most of the other vessels were brought to and got safe into harbour. There was at the same time, a very high tide in the river Wear.—*Local Papers*.

1763 (Dec. 9).—In the evening a fire broke out in Mr. Simpson's blue manufactory, on the Tyne, above the smelt house, west of Newcastle, which did great damage, but by the diligence of the workmen, it was happily got under before the whole was consumed.—*Ibid*.

December.—As the workmen at Alnwick castle, were taking up the foundation of an ancient tower, one of them found a gold ring, the annulus of which bore the following inscription :—" *Esperance me conforte.*" As the ring was esteemed a great curiosity, it was preserved by Mr. Robert Maddison, bailiff of the castle, for the noble owner.—*Gen'l's. Mag.*

This year, there was living in a little hut at Byker-hill, near Newcastle, a man named Robert Jackson, aged 110 years. He was a soldier under James II., William and Mary, queen Ann, and George I., and had been in the battles of the Boyne, Almanza, Malplaquet, Sheriffmuir, and Glenshiel. In his hut he solicited the charity of the humane passengers.—*Local Rec.*

About this period the church at Chatton, Northumberland, was erected. It stands on the south side of the village, and is dedicated to the Holy Cross. The parsonage house was formerly an embattled tower, in which the vicar could preserve his most valuable effects from a sudden surprise of the Borderers. The church-yard stands so near the river Till, that, during floods, a great part of it is covered with water. In the chancel of the church, a French colour is exhibited, which was taken by lieutenant Samuel Cook (son of the present vicar) in the Swallow frigate, after an engagement with a vessel of superior force.—*Mackenzie's Northd.* 1824.

1763-4.—Winston bridge, near Gainford, Durham, was built, from a plan designed by sir Thomas Robinson. The arch is the segment of a circle, measuring 112 feet span, in 22 feet broad, and 20 feet



WINSTON BRIDGE.

between the parapet walls. At the time of its erection, it was said by architects to be the largest arch in Europe. The elevation is such as to render the road level with the Yorkshire side of the Tees: it is built of blueish rag-stone, of a hard, heavy, and durable nature.—*Mackenzie and Ross' Dur.*

1764.—About this period, several pieces of broken spears and swords, and some Roman coins were found on an eminence about 300 yards north-west of Howick burn, Northumberland, where are the remains of a Roman camp. Half a mile west from Howick-hall, a man named Holmes, when digging, found several gold rings, linked in the form of a gorget. We have not been able to learn how it was disposed of. Near the Pasture-house, while digging a gravel pit, several large urns were found, about four feet below the surface; but they fell to pieces when exposed to the air. Adjoining the same place, when clearing the face of a limestone rock, the quarrymen found a quantity of human bones. The bodies had been interred in the side of the rock.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

January 24.—Tuesday, John Winter and John Rawlinson, coopers, and Thomas, alias Mary M'Carter, a chimney-sweeper, were apprehended at a public house in Pipewellgate, Gateshead, and carried before the rev. Mr. Lambe, one of his majesty's justices of the peace, for the county of Durham, being charged with disorderly behaviour; and not being able to give a satisfactory account of themselves, they were all committed to Durham gaol. In the examination, M'Carter was discovered to be a woman, though she had served a

regular apprenticeship to a chimney-sweeper, and followed that business for several years.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1764 (Jan.).—Sir Walter Blackett, baronet, with his wonted generosity, added a further sum of £600. to his former subscription of £1000. towards carrying into execution the plan on foot for establishing an hospital for lunatics at Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

February 5.—Sunday afternoon, the Jane and Eleanor, Redman, from London, with merchant goods for Newcastle, in coming up the Tyne in a high wind, missed stays, and drove with such violence against Hebburn-quay, that her anchor was struck into her bow, and she immediately sunk. Next day she was weighed and got up to the quay, but her cargo was considerably damaged.—*Ibid.*

February 23.—Thursday, died in the Close, Newcastle, aged 116, Ralph Hart, formerly a weaver, who had for some years previously been maintained by the corporation. He had been favoured with good health, and retained his mental faculties to the last.—*Ibid.*

February 25.—Early in the morning, a fire broke out in the fore-castle of the ship European, of Whitby, lying in Shields harbour, but it was extinguished before the vessel was entirely consumed.—*Ibid.*

February 25.—Died at Newcastle, unmarried, Mr. Sparrow, worth £20,000; but yet he lodged in a garret.—*Gent's Mag.*

March 12.—The north arch of Witton bridge, near Hamsterley, in the county of Durham, gave way by suddenly springing upwards. *Local Papers.*

March 20.—The fine harbour at Seaton Sluice, about half a mile north from Hartley, in Northumberland, which had been some years in making by sir John Hussey Delaval, was finished, and on the above day two ships went in, in full sail through the canal cut out of a solid rock 900 feet long, 54 feet deep, and 30 feet broad. An elegant entertainment was given by sir John to a great number of ladies and gentlemen; three oxen, several sheep, and plenty of strong ale, were given to the workmen. On the 22nd, the Warkworth, captain Curry, a vessel of 13 keels of coals sailed out of the new harbour, being the first after its completion.* The original harbour here was formed by sir Ralph Delaval, bart. "Charles the Second, who had a great taste for matters of this kind, made him collector and surveyor of his own port."† It is called Seaton-Sluice, from the sluice and flood-gates which sir Ralph invented to scour the harbour. The new entrance was planned by Thomas Delaval, esq. who, having resided some time at Hamburgh, obtained considerable wealth, and a passion for commerce. The copperas and glass-works at Hartley were com-

* Local Records. † Hutchinson.

menced by this gentleman, who subsequently sold all his concern here to his brother, the late lord Delaval.—*Hodgson's Northd. 8vo. &c.*

1764 (March 24).—Was published the first number of the Newcastle Chronicle, or General Weekly Advertiser, newspaper, by Mr. Thomas Slack. It is still published under its first title by his grandsons, Messrs. Thomas and James Hodgson.—*Local Rec.*

March.—The society of arts presented a premium of ten guineas to Mr. Handyside, of Wooler, in Northumberland, for the second best painting in enamel.—*Ibid.*

April 1.—Notices were given in the newspapers, that on account of the great eclipse on this day (Sunday), morning service would not be begun in any of the churches in Newcastle, until 12 o'clock, and evening service not before 4 o'clock.—*Ibid.*

April 13, Friday.—Arrived at the earl of Northumberland's stables, two stallions which had been purchased in Arabia, for his lordship, at a cost of 500 guineas each. They travelled by way of Aleppo to Scanderoon, whence they were shipped to Marseilles, and proceeded thence through France.—*Gent's Mag.*

May 3.—About four o'clock in the morning, James Lawrie, a journeyman shoemaker, broke into St. Andrew's church, Newcastle, through one of the back windows, and stripped the linings off two or three of the pews, to a considerable value. He was that day apprehended, and being carried before the magistrates, he confessed the fact and was committed to Newgate, to take his trial at the next assizes.—*Gillespy's Col.*

May 10.—The right worshipful William Clayton, esq., mayor of Newcastle, several of the aldermen, and the building committee, marked out a piece of ground near the old St. Ann's chapel, at the east end of Sandgate, for a new edifice on a plan to hold 600 people. The old chapel being too small and having become ruinous.—*Local Papers.*

May 14.—Was taken in lord Northumberland's fishery at Newburn (among many other large ones) a salmon, which measured five feet and a half in length, was twenty eight inches round, and weighed fifty four pounds, being the biggest fish of the kind ever known to be taken in the river Tyne.—*Gillespy's Col.*

June 4.—The grand illumination designed by the earl and countess of Northumberland, as a compliment to his majesty's birth day, was this evening exhibited at Northumberland house, in the Strand London; 1,500 persons of distinction were invited; the garden was decorated with 10,000 lamps; 400 were fixed to the balustrades, descending by the steps; these had a most beautiful effect. There was a grand display of fireworks of the most costly kind. Two bands

of music were provided, one in the great gallery, which was most splendidly illuminated; the other in the garden; each answered the other alternately; and upon the Marquis of Granby's entrance, struck up—"He comes, he comes, the conquering hero comes!" which was instantly followed by a general huzza from the whole company.—*Local Rec.*

1764 (June 16).—Died at Stranton, near Morpeth, Elizabeth Elsdon, aged 106 years. She retained her faculties to the last. Her husband died the January preceding, aged 104 years. In the same place there was living at that time, Elizabeth Wheeler, aged 104, in such health and vigour as to be able to walk 20 miles a day.—*Newc. Cour.*

June 23.—A very extraordinary accident happened. Two he-asses being most furiously engaged in battle, upon Tyne-bridge, a country woman who was passing them, unfortunately coming within their reach, had one finger bit off her right hand, and two others crushed in a shocking manner.—She was taken to the Infirmary.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 2.—His grace the lord archbishop of York arrived in Newcastle, and on the following day set out for Hexham, to hold a confirmation there, and also to consecrate a chapel at Whitley, near that place, and another at Ninebanks, near Allendale. He was attended by sir Walter Blackett, bart., by whose benevolence, both these chapels, formerly curacies were liberally endowed. July 3rd, his grace the duke of Portland, and lord George Bentick, arrived in Newcastle, and dined with William Clayton, esq., mayor, at the mansion house, and on the following morning, set out for Morpeth, from whence they went on the 7th to meet his grace the archbishop and sir Walter Blackett, at Wallington.—*Local Papers.*

July 8.—Sunday morning, about four o'clock, Robert Lindsay, a keelman, having got upon a wall in an entry in Sandgate, Newcastle, near to the window of George Stewart, a pawnbroker, was seen there by Stewart's wife, who charged him with an intention of robbing their premises, and bid him begone. Lindsay denied any such intention, and refused to go away; upon which she got the tongs, and struck him two or three blows from the window, which so enraged him, that he broke some squares of glass with his fist; on this the pawnbroker took his gun, which he generally kept charged in the house, and presenting it at the keelman, bid him begone or he would shoot him; Lindsay still refusing to go, the pawnbroker snapped the gun at him, which only flashed in the pan; he then called to his wife for more powder, which she brought, and primed the gun herself, in his hands; he then presented it again at the keelman and shot him dead upon the spot. Stewart

and his wife were both apprehended and committed to Newgate, to take their trial at the next assizes. August 27, George Stewart was executed upon the town moor pursuant to his sentence, for the murder of Robert Lindsay, keelman. He behaved with great indecency for some time after he received sentence of death; but being duly attended by a clergyman, he became now sensible of his unhappy circumstances, and died much more a penitent than was expected. His body was sent to the Surgeons hall, and dissected by the surgeons.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1764 (July 13).—Friday, about eight in the morning, there fell at Hartlepool, a shower of pieces of ice, in various forms, clear as crystal, and measuring from three to five inches in circumference, which lasted 15 minutes; but as it did not extend to any distance from the town, and the weather being calm, no damage ensued.—*Gillespy's Col.*



NORTH GATE, HARTLEPOOL.

July 18.—Ephraim Randal died at Morpeth, aged 109 years.—*Gent's. Mag.*

July 20.—So great a quantity of salmon was taken in the river Tyne, that it was sold for a penny-farthing per pound.—*Local Papers.*

This month, the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, awarded to Thomas Fenwick, esq., of Lemmington, near Alnwick, a gold medal for having planted 104,000 Scots firs.—*Ibid.*

August 8.—A fire broke out at High-houses near Ebochester, which consumed two or three farm houses, before it was got under.—*Gillespy's Col.*

August 17.—Died, at Ponteland, in Northumberland, Elizabeth Lions, aged 112 years, who retained her senses perfectly to the last.—*Local Papers.*

August 17.—A very singular and distressing case came on for trial at the assizes for the county of Durham. Mr. James Oliphant, a surgeon of great respectability, residing upon Tyne-bridge, Margaret Oliphant, his wife, and Mary Shittleton, their servant, for the wilful murder of Dinah Armstrong, another of their female domestics. The charge being altogether unsupported by evidence, the prisoners were acquitted to the satisfaction of the whole court. His lordship, the judge, was pleased to express his sorrow for the great injuries, losses, and expences they had sustained, and his belief that they were innocent of the crime laid to their charge as himself. The circumstances attending the death of Dinah Armstrong were as follow. During

the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Oliphant, while on a visit to Scotland, she was left in charge of their children, in the house of a friend and neighbour, named Milne. On Mrs. Oliphant's return home, she was informed that the girl had been detected in pilfering several trifling articles from Mrs. Milne. Among other things missing were some damask napkins, which, from circumstances, Mrs. Milne strongly suspected the girl taking, and therefore, desired Mrs. Oliphant to examine her strictly about them. Accordingly, Mrs. Oliphant acquainted the girl with the suspicions entertained of her by Mrs. Milne, and begged of her, if she had these napkins, to be candid, and declare the truth. The girl positively denied the charge, though she acknowledged having stolen, from a former employer, a sheet, &c. which were then in her possession. Still persisting in her denial of any knowledge of the napkins, Mrs. Milne intimated her intention of prosecuting her, the fear of which, no doubt, operating upon a weak mind, induced her to commit suicide, by leaping into the river, from the cellar window, while the family were at dinner on Tuesday the 17th of July. The body was found floating on the river, about two miles above the bridge on Sunday morning the 22nd, by Joseph Barlow, a keelman, and another person named John Southern, and on the Tuesday following, Mr. Robson, the coroner for the county of Durham, held his inquest at Dunston, when, without a tittle of evidence, and apparently influenced only by the ridiculous notions and prejudices of an infatuated rabble, he, refusing to accept evidence in favour of the accused, or to hear them in their own own defence, recorded a verdict of wilful murder against them. He then placed his warrant in the hands of the peace officers, with instructions to bring the parties before him, to be dealt with according to law. On this warrant they were arrested next morning, and hurried away to Durham. The coroner however from a consciousness of his illegal conduct, or some other cause unknown, did not commit the prisoners to gaol, but suffered them to return home in the custody of the constable, under whose surveillance they remained till the 13th day of August, when at their own request they were again carried to Durham, to take their trials at the assizes. Such were the circumstances under which a reputable, worthy family, of the most respectable and unblemished characters, without the least shadow of reason, or the most remote presumption of guilt, were accused of the worst of crimes; deprived of liberty; almost ruined in reputation, health, and fortune; exposed to the insults of a mob, the shock of a public trial as murderers; and, in short, subjected to the violation of the dearest rights of man; under the colour of law and office.—“*Case of James Oliphant.*” &c. *Newc.*, 1768.

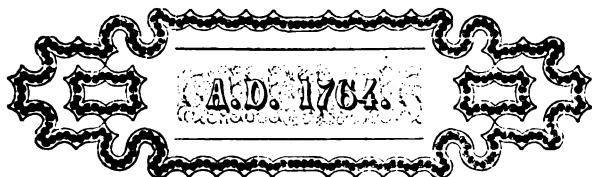
1764 (Aug. 27).—Died, at Mr. Parker's, the Turk's Head inn, in Newcastle, whether he had come for the recovery of his health, the right hon. lord Belhaven, of the Beil, in the shire of Haddington, near Edinburgh. On the 30th, his remains were removed from Newcastle, to be deposited in the family vault. His lordship dying without issue, his title and estates descended to his only brother, the honourable Mr. Hamilton.—*Local Papers.*

August.—Edward Softley, of Boldon park gate, having by his frugality and industry scraped together twenty guineas and two crown pieces, put the same into a purse, which he inclosed in a tinder box, and hid it in a hole of his chimney, where it had remained a long time unvisited; but upon going at this time to turn it over, or lay it to the sun to prevent it from moulding or tarnishing, he to his great astonishment found a hole made in the bottom of the tinder box, and the purse and money both fled. The surprize, together with the thoughts of the loss, produced such an effect on the poor man, that he immediately fell into despair, and in his own opinion would have expired in a few days, had it not been for the extraordinary diligence of his wife, who, in ransacking the several holes and corners of the house, found the purse amongst divers pieces of cloth, which the rats had gleaned and heaped up together; and, upon further search, found the gold and crown pieces, in several holes of the walls, which were supposed to be conveyed there also by the rats. The man was no sooner informed of this than he instantly plucked up his spirits, and generously gave a guinea, to the poor of the parish.—*Gillespy's Collections.*

August.—A most elegant market house and shambles were built in the town of Alnwick, at the expence of the earl and countess of Northumberland, and which were by them presented to that town.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*



CHAPTER VI.



HE extreme penalty of the law was carried into effect, on the body of James Edgar, on the 3rd of September, 1764, at the Westgate, Newcastle. He had been tried at the assizes for that town, in the preceding month, and found guilty of a burglary and larceny committed in the house of Edward Bigge, esq., at West Jesmond, near that town. At the place of execution, he was dressed in a shroud, without either coat or waistcoat, and attended by four dissenting ministers. He behaved with great decency, earnestly exhorting the numerous spectators to take warning by his unhappy fate. Edgar, who was a cobbler, in Sandgate, with a man named Thomas Harrison, a hawker, and Isabella, his reputed wife, with Alexander Simpson, her son, a boy about eight years of age, were apprehended in Sandgate, on the 6th of January, 1764, for the above burglary, and on searching Edgar's house, where Harrison and his reputed wife lodged, the stolen goods were found. Edgar confessed the fact, and charged Harrison and his wife with being his accomplices, who, he said, first put the boy in at the window; afterwards the woman found means to get in, and Harrison and he staid without and received the stolen goods. Harrison and the woman were both acquitted.—*Local Papers.*

September 22.—Died, at the rev. Mr. Spence's in the city of Durham, Mr. Robert Dodsley, one of the most eminent booksellers in London, and author of many ingenious pieces both in prose and verse. His remains, which were interred on the 25th, lie under an altar tomb in the cathedral church yard.—*Local Rec.*

1764 (Oct.).—This month, as some men were repairing the floor of the vestry in the parish church of Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, they found a large stone image, curiously cut out, near six feet long, and lying at full length, with an arch over it, but no inscription appeared upon it.—*Surtees*.

October 3.—About ten o'clock in the morning as three poor women were getting, coals at Mr. Kent's pit, near North Shields, having undermined the loose metal too much, the bank fell in upon them, and crushed one of them to death; the other two were taken out alive, but one of them so much bruised, that her life was despaired of.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 17.—As the rev. Mr. Leake, of Stanhope, in Weardale, who had been on business at Newcastle, was going to Whickham, where he intended to stop all night, he unfortunately lost his way, and in endeavouring to cross the river Team, his horse stuck fast in the mud, and he was drowned. He was found next morning along with his horse, which had not been able to disengage itself, but almost dead with lying so long in the mud.—*Local Papers*.

October 29.—As two men were riding on a young horse to the Cowhill fair, Newcastle, in passing a windmill on the Windmill-hills, the horse took fright, and running away with them, leaped down a quarry upwards of 27 feet deep. The horse was killed on the spot, but neither of the men were hurt.—*Gillespy's Col.*



OLD MILL, WINDMILL-HILLS, GATESHEAD.

STANDING IN 1824.

1764 (Nov. 1).—The right worshipful sir Walter Blackett, bart., mayor of Newcastle, and the magistrates, accompanied by the greatest number of free-burgesses and other gentlemen that had ever been known on a like occasion, perambulated the boundaries of that corporation. After meeting at the mayor's chamber in the morning and drinking a glass of wine, the procession moved along the Close, several men walking before them with spades and axes over their shoulders as pioneers to remove obstructions, and to demolish all undue encroachments upon the rights and privileges of the corporation, next the Free Porters with their halberts, two men on horseback with two panniers each, containing figs, prunes, &c. (which were thrown among the people, by the town's marshal, at every boulder stone, &c.) Seven sergeants at mace with banners, music, &c. Where houses stood on the line of boundary, men were ordered to go over them and take off bricks, tiles, &c. as the town's property. Many guns were fired and other compliments paid at different places; the bells were rung all the day. Sir Walter Blackett with his usual benevolence, in passing the Infirmary, sent the town marshal with his good wishes for the prosperity of that laudable institution, accompanied with a present of ten guineas. After the procession, the mayor gave an elegant entertainment, and the day was concluded with drinking loyal healths, &c.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 6.—At a meeting of the rector, curate, and inhabitants of Sunderland, a plan for building a new chapel was unanimously approved of and in the space of twelve hours £2,030. were subscribed towards putting the same in execution.—*Local Papers.*

November 12.—About ten o'clock at night, a fire broke out in a room within the great tower of the castle of Newcastle, which destroyed goods to the amount of £160. which had been deposited there.—*Ibid.*

November 27.—A servant girl in the night, in going over Blackburn Fell, near Gibside, Durham, had the misfortune to fall into an old coal pit, thirty fathoms deep, and at the bottom was taken up to her arm-pits in water. In struggling to get out of the water, she luckily met with a piece of timber, which she got upon, and as it kept her pretty clear of the water, was the means of saving her life. She continued in that dismal situation two days and two nights, and was discovered at last by the sagacity of a dog, which having heard her cries, &c., made signs of distress to his master, which induced him to follow it to the very pit mouth. The man then with proper assistance got her out alive, by which means she was restored to her friends.—*Local Papers.*

December.—At this time it appears that a shoe black, named Lee,

stood at the custom-house, Newcastle. One day in this month, he went into one of the rooms to warm himself, but he had not been long there before he fell out of the seat and expired immediately.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1764 (Dec. 3).—Tuesday, a young woman missing her way to a farmers house near Heworth, fell into an old coal pit where she lay till Friday, when she was discovered by a dog, which, upon hearing her cries, had come to the place, and would not leave it till a countryman coming to find out what might be the reason of so strange a circumstance, discovered the melancholy occasion, and got the young woman drawn up, who, though in a weak condition ultimately recovered. Such accidents shewed the necessity of taking timely and particular care to have these pits filled up, or sufficiently secured against their happening so frequently as they did.—*Gillespy's Col.*

December 9.—A terrible fire broke out at Dukesfield, near Hexham, occasioned by making a fire in a barn or out-house to dry some deals, by which two houses and two hay stacks, valued at £150., belonging to Mr. Hunter, were consumed.—*Local Papers.*

December 13.—In the evening, a fire broke out in Mr. Williams' glass house, in the Close, Newcastle, occasioned by the foulness of the chimney, which taking fire, some of the sparks got in between the tiles, and setting fire to the roof, it was consumed. The building being near the river which was then at its height, with proper assistance the fire was got under.—*Ibid.*

December 27.—Being the anniversary of St. John, the ancient and honourable society of free and accepted masons of the lodges in Sunderland, joined by their brethren from Durham, Newcastle, Shields, and parts adjacent, went in grand procession to church, where an occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. brother Barwise; from whence, with their worshipful master, brother Inman, at their head, accompanied by the rector, the curate, and the principal inhabitants, they proceeded to the east end of the town, where, amidst assembled thousands, the first stone of a chapel, dedicated to St. John the evangelist, was laid by brother John Thornhill, esq., who with a truly public spirit had generously undertaken to plan and execute the building upon the estate of Marshall Robinson, of Herrington, esq., who had generously made a donation of the ground, although it had been before purchased of him. After the ceremony was concluded the society proceeded to brother Adam Turner's, where an elegant entertainment was provided, and the whole concluded with the utmost harmony and good order.—*Ibid.*

This year, Castle Eden church was erected by Rowland Burdon, esq. the elder; and his successor has enlarged it by the addi-

tion of two uniform aisles. It is remarkably neat and well lighted ; and the font, the bason of which is oval, is of beautiful marble.—*Surtees.*

1764.—The Presbyterian Meeting-house, in the High-bridge, Newcastle, was commenced building. It was finished in the year following.—*Local Papers.*

1765 (Jan. 2).—A Lodge of free and accepted masons was duly constituted at Mrs. Bond's, the sign of the Old George, in North Shields, when brother Hunter, the master elect, and his officers, were with great solemnity (according to ancient form,) invested with the proper jewels of their respective offices, by their brother Robert Green, deputed for that purpose, by the hon. the earl of Kelly, grand master of Great Britain. On the following day they assembled at the Low-lights, together with their brethren from Newcastle, Sunderland and other places adjacent, from whence they walked in procession to Mrs. Bond's.—*Ibid.*

January 15.—Died, at Castle Eden, in the county of Durham, Robert Moffit, aged 104 years, who retained his faculties to the last.—*Gen's Mag.*

January 19.—There was at this period, and for a fortnight previously, a rose in full blossom, in the garden of Thomas Philipson, esq., of New Elvet, Durham—*Gillespy's Col.*

January 19.—Notice was given by advertisement, "That Mr. James M'Donnell, dissenting minister, had taken a convenient piece of ground without Pilgrim street gate, Newcastle, to build a meeting-



PILGRIM STREET GATE, NORTH FRONT.

house upon, at the desire and importunate request of several of his friends." April 1st the foundation stone was laid by Mr. M'Donnell, who stood upon the stone, and preached to a great number of people assembled on the occasion, after which a handsome collection was made towards carrying on the building. It is at present a dwelling house in Lisle street. Brand says "A fanatic of the name of Macdonald, erected a building, called the Tabernacle, down an entry almost opposite to the orphan house, but meeting with little or no encouragement, he left the town and went to Manchester." He preached his farewell sermon, July 31st, 1768.—*Local Rec.*

1765 (Jan.).—Was married at St. John Lee, near Hexham, Robert Scott, a piper of Wall, aged 90, to Jean Middlemas, aged 25. The person who acted as father was a piper, and the bride's maid was a piper's daughter, and what was very remarkable, though the bridegroom had used crutches for near 26 years before, he threw them away that morning, and walked to and from church, (about six miles) without them. After the ceremony was over, the parson treated the company with cakes and ale; and at the bridegroom's house at Wall, a dinner was provided and the afternoon spent with the utmost mirth and jollity, having several pipers and fiddlers to entertain them.—*Ibid.*

February 6.—A market was held at Corbridge, for corn, poultry, butter, &c. About 300 persons attended, when a proclamation was made for holding a market weekly, on the Friday, pursuant to an old statute.—*Ibid.*

February 18.—A cod fish was sold at Blyth, in the belly of which a gold ring was found, which had remained there so long that the inscription was worn off, though the scrolls, in which it had been written, remained entire.—*Gent's. Mag.*

March.—The road between Newcastle and Morpeth was at this time so bad, that one of the Edinburgh waggons, in one place opposite to Gosforth, proved an overmatch to nineteen good horses.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March.—A petition was presented to parliament, from the masters and owners of ships in the coal trade in the port of Shields; praying that the conservators for keeping free the navigation of the river Tyne, might be called on to account in what manner the large sums paid into their hands, during seven years previously, for that purpose, had been applied.—*Gent's. Mag.*

March 5.—Tuesday, a storm of snow, &c. came on in the evening with such violence, and continued so all night, that not only many flocks of sheep were drifted over, but many persons lost their lives, by being exposed to the excessive cold and the severity of the weather.

One remarkable instance of which happened near Alnham, in Northumberland, where two sons of a farmer being at school, a servant boy, about 14 years old, was dispatched with a horse to make their way home more easy and expeditious, but on their return (being confounded by the raging of the tempest) they lost their way, and wandered about to a great distance until their dismal circumstances so terrified them, that they deserted the horse, and the youngest of the boys laid himself quietly down in the snow, but his eldest brother being in great distraction ran about backward and forward, till being spent, and his strength quite exhausted, he sunk down and expired. His brother and the servant continued still alive, but in a torpid and benumbed state, till they were found the next day, the servant leading the horse and the youngest boy (between six and seven years old) on horseback holding the body of his dead brother before him.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1765 (March 12).—The weather still continuing tempestuous, a most remarkable and unfortunate accident happened on the road between Newcastle and Shields. Mr. Shotton, jun., of High Flatworth, and Mr. Redhead, a farmer, near the said road, being returning home, and both riding in full gallop in contrary directions, and the night dark and snowing, they met full upon each other with the united impetus of both horses, and the shock was so great that the horses were instantly killed upon the spot, and their riders thrown with extreme force one against the other, and thence to the ground, so that both lay for dead, and most probably would have been so if the father of Mr. Shotton had not been present, who procured immediate assistance. Mr. Redhead, besides many wounds and bruises, received a fracture in his skull, and remained for some days insensible. Mr. Shotton was in a condition very little better.—*Ibid.*

March 13.—A house, situate on the bank-side, at the south east corner of St. Nicholas' church-yard, fell down, in consequence of the shrinking of the ground on which it stood, occasioned by the heavy and long continued fall of snow and rain; fortunately, the inmates were warned of their danger, by a passer-by, and got safely out almost at the instant of its fall.—*Local Papers.*

March 13.—A new ship of 300 tons burthen was launched at Alnmouth, in Northumberland. Being the first vessel which had been built there, a great number of spectators attended to witness so great a novelty. Alnmouth, or, as it is improperly called, *Alemouth*, is a village, township, and small port under Berwick, situated on the north side of the mouth of the river Aln, five miles E.S.E. of Alnwick. There are about ten vessels of from 50 to 150 tons burthen belonging to the port, and chiefly employed in conveying merchandise to and from

London, &c. for the merchants and tradesmen of Alnwick and the neighbourhood. Smuggling was once pursued here with much boldness and success, but the custom house officers stationed here, have at length nearly annihilated this illicit trade. The harbour is very inconvenient, but is capable of great improvement.—*Parson and White.*

1765 (March).—The quantity of snow, sleet, and rain, which fell this month, swelled the rivers to an alarming degree. The river Coquet, in Northumberland, left its old course below the village of Warkworth, and forced its way between two sandy hills, overgrown with bent, that had obstructed its passage for ages, by which it opened a passage into the sea above a mile nearer than its former channel.—*Local Papers.*

March 19.—A new engine with many improvements on a previously invented machine for drawing coals out of the pits without horses, erected at Hartley, by Thomas Delaval, esq., was set to work with incredible success. By this means coals were drawn out of that deep mine at the rate of a corf per minute. The machine and improvements were invented by Mr. Joseph Oxley. This was the second machine which had been erected at this colliery, and was of so simple a construction, that the whole worked upon two axle-trees of about five feet long.—*Ibid.*

March 20.—The workmen began the demolition of certain houses near the Low Crane, on the Quayside, Newcastle, for the erection of the present custom-house, which was finished on a neat and substantial plan. The custom-house was previously at the west end of the Quay, and is now a public house, known by the name of the "Old Custom-house." The establishment was removed in 1766 to the new building, which was opened on the 29th of December.—*Brand.*



THE "OLD CUSTOM-HOUSE," 1842.

1765 (March 29).—Died, near Alston, Ann Wilson, aged 110 years.—*Gents. Mag.*

April 1.—Monday, a terrible misfortune happened at Walker Colliery, three miles below this Town (Newcastle), where some pitmen, not aware of their danger, and perhaps from careless and unskilful means, set fire to the damp or foul air in the workings, which lie about one hundred fathoms below the surface of the ground. The inflammable vapour fired in an instant, and a dreadful explosion as suddenly followed, making a report at the mouth of the pit as loud as thunder. There were no lives lost, but the workmen were in a most miserable condition, being scorched and burnt to a very frightful degree. As soon as it could be done, all possible assistance was lent them, and, on being drawn up, they were sent to the Infirmary. On the day following, several overmen and others descended to examine the state of the mine, when dreadful to relate, it fired a second time, and killed eight persons and seventeen horses, who were all burnt in a most shocking manner.—*Gillespy's Col.*

April 7.—At Alnmouth, the sea was so remarkably high, as to render the crossing the mouth of that river almost impracticable. However some country people being too fool-hardy (or rather not sensible of the danger) got into a boat in order to cross the river, but before they got half over, the boat became so agitated by the opposition of the tide and wind, that it sunk; whereby three of the men were drowned, and with much difficulty and hazard the rest were saved.—*Ibid.*

April 13.—A most flagrant robbery was perpetrated on Mr. William Middleton, school-master of the free school at Hartlepool, in the following barbarous manner: as he was crossing Gateshead Fell, on his way to Newcastle, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, he was attacked by two men and a boy, who forced him into a quarry adjoining, where they threatened to take his life. The poor man being subject to fits, and believing his life in danger, fear threw him into one immediately, which gave the villains a full opportunity to execute their design, in stripping him of all his clothes, but his stockings, and leaving him exposed quite naked to the severity of a cold and wet afternoon; which happily proved of service to him; for the cold water falling upon him, soon brought him to himself; but being almost perished and benumbed, he could make no assistance, and must inevitably have lain there, had not a cottager on the Fell, (who seeing a horse, saddled and bridled, without his rider, standing by the edge of the quarry) come up; and finding him lying in that shocking condition, sprawling on the ground, unable to speak, carried him to a house near the road side and put him to bed. Several of the neigh-

bours hearing the lamentable story, went immediately in search of the villains, but without success. After the poor man had somewhat recovered himself, he was assisted with some clothes by a neighbouring gentleman. He remembered nothing of what passed, after being taken into the quarry, but complained much of a hurt in the breast.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1765 (April).—A gentleman in the neighbourhood of Felton, Northumberland, killed a buck hare, whose colour was entirely white.—*Ibid.*

May 10.—Most of the people called quakers, who were householders in Newcastle, appeared at the guildhall, before two magistrates, on a summons given by virtue of a warrant issued for that purpose, to answer the complaint of John Brown, D.D., then vicar of Newcastle, for their refusing to pay certain obventions and Easter reckonings, by him, said to be justly his due: but as it is well known these people make this matter a case of conscience with them, they could not consistently comply with the vicar's demands; and therefore, a warrant of distress was granted to levy for the several sums upon the said householders goods.—*Newc. Jour.*

May.—About the middle of this month, was killed at Staindrop, in the county of Durham, the finest and fattest wether sheep of two shears, that any man remembered to have seen. He was both bred and fed by Mr. Robert Dinsdale, and his four quarters weighed 15 st. 3lb. and measured on the ribs five inches of solid fat.—*Gillespy's Col.*

In the middle of May, George Fortune and his wife ale-house keepers in Sunderland, happening in their cups to fall into a dispute with one William Glendinning about renting a room in Fortune's house, and a sailor taking Fortune's part, a most unfortunate quarrel ensued in which the said Glendinning was most barbarously used by the sailor and Fortune's wife, who threw him on the floor, where they trod upon him, and violently struck and kicked him in divers parts of his body to such a degree, that five days afterwards he died of the blows and bruises he had received. The coroners inquest sat upon the occasion and brought in their verdict wilful murder; upon which Fortune and his wife were apprehended, and sent to Durham gaol; but the sailor who seemed a principal aggressor, found means to escape.—*Ibid.*

May.—Two sailors at Shields, being in liquor, happened to quarrel, and one stabbed the other in the belly with a knife, so that he soon after expired, upon which the other immediately absconded. The coroners inquest upon examination of the circumstances, brought in their verdict manslaughter.—*Ibid.*

June.—A terrible fire broke out at Low-house, in West Allendale, belonging to Mr. John Clark, which burnt with such violence, that in

one hour his house and shop, with all his stock and furniture, were totally destroyed by the vehemence of the flames.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1765 (June).—At Lanchester church, in the county of Durham, the ages of five male communicants amounted to 507 years, the youngest of whom was above 100.—*Ibid.*

June 14.—Merill Nicholson, aged 104 years, was buried at Sunderland: her life had been a continued series of health and activity for eighty years together, and her faculties were strong and perfect to the last.—*Ibid.*

June 24.—The sexton of St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, was found dead in a grave which he had been digging.—*Local Papers.*



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NEWCASTLE.

June 29.—On the morning of this day, 149 fine large salmon were taken at one draught, at the fishery, near the bar at Shields.—*Ibid.*

July 2.—The golden arrow, according to annual custom (founded in 1673), was shot for at Ferryhill, by twenty gentlemen of the long bow, which was won by Mr. Thomas Watson, of Darlington, and the lieutenancy, by Thomas Kelly, of Richmond. Great bets were depending on this trial between the gentlemen of Durham and Darlington, which were won by the latter.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 5.—Died at Shield Dykes, near Alnwick, Elcanor Anderson, aged 107 years. Her faculties were remarkably strong, and till the day of her death, she was a stranger to sickness.—*Gen'l's. Mag.*

July 9.—At Wooler, Northumberland, they had the most violent storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied with large hail, that had been known for some time: during which a woman and a boy were riding on a horse, near that place, she and the horse were struck by a flash of lightning and killed upon the spot, and what is remarkable, the boy was not hurt.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 13.—A poor woman was unfortunately burnt to death at

Alnwick, in a very deplorable manner. Her husband being just gone out to buy some milk, and nobody near, it is supposed she had tottered against the fire, and being enfeebled with age, could make no assistance, but expired in the most miserable anguish, lying against the bars with her body almost burnt, before her husband (who had not been half an hour out) returned.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1765 (July 16).—A fire broke out in a fulling-mill, about a mile below Alnwick, which burnt with great fury until the whole was consumed.—*Local Papers.*

July 21.—In consequence of the ruinous state of the old St. Ann's chapel, at the east end of Sandgate, Newcastle, it was advertised that divine service would commence on the above day, and continue to be performed in the Shipwrights'-hall (Carpenters'-tower), every Sunday, in the morning and afternoon, until the new chapel was finished, the service commencing at the same time with All Saints'. The chapel and ground were consecrated by bishop Trevor, September 2nd, 1768. No interment had taken place in this chapel ground from the time of its consecration until April 30th, 1828, when the remains of Mr. George Henderson, of St. Ann's row (adjoining the ground), were interred there. From the crowded state of the churchyards in Newcastle, this ground was opened to the public as a place of general sepulture. A large concourse of people assembled on the occasion, and the solemn and impressive service was read by the rev. John Dodd, vicar of Newcastle, to whom the public were indebted for this arrangement. It may be interesting to future historians, to know that Mr. Henderson's grave was dug close to the south-east angle of the chapel. The present chapel, of which the following is a representation, was built by Mr. Newton, architect, with the stones



ST. ANN'S CHAPEL, NEWCASTLE.

of the old town wall, which formerly ran along the Quay-side. The upper part of the steeple having for a considerable time been out of its perpendicular, and its fall apprehended, it was, in October, 1826, taken down and rebuilt with larger stones than had been before used in its erection.—*Local Rec.*

1765 (July 22).—At Walworth moors, near Darlington, a bull broke out of his pasture into a corn field, and a labouring man going to turn him out, the bull fell upon him and killed him, and also another man, who was going to assist the former, but before he arrived, the bull came running towards him, and though he turned and run, the bull overtook him before he got out of the field, and gored him so much that he died soon after.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 25.—A Butcher driving some kyloes along the Sandhill, Newcastle, one of them broke from the rest, and ran furiously along the Quay, where it caught a girl up on its horns, carried her a considerable way, and in tossing her off, broke her collar bone.—*Ibid.*

July 29.—One Renwick and his wife having left their mother, an antient woman, in a cottage house, situated between the villages of Newbrough and Satlingstones, six miles west of Hexham, and gone to harvest work, at their return in the evening found the old woman dead upon the floor, with the marks of several blows on her head, and other marks of violence about her; and also four boxes broken open, and one of them robbed of £58. 6s. which sum the poor man had been all his life-time industriously gathering and laying up, with a view to render his old age comfortable. Next day the coroners inquest brought in their verdict, wilful murder, against some person or persons unknown.—*Gillespy's Col.*

August 10.—Veal sold here (Newcastle) for 3d. the best; Beef and mutton for 3d. and 3½. Lamb 2d. and fresh butter at 9d. and 10d. per pound: Geese at 10d. and 11d. each.—*Ibid.*

August 12.—Monday, a man, formerly a supervisor of excise, having agreed with Mrs. Sherwood, of Newcastle, for the purchase of a house, but not fulfilling the conditions of payment, was by her arrested for other debts which he had contracted; in revenge for which, he, on the previous night, set her stables on fire, and on the morning of the above day hanged himself in a neighbouring wood.—*Gents. Mag.*

August 15.—Joseph Hall, a soldier in the 6th regiment (general Guise's) quartered in Newcastle, was executed at Morpeth, for a highway robbery near Gosforth. The following are the particulars:—Sept. 11, 1764, about eight o'clock at night, as Mr. William Cuthbertson, hair-dresser of Newcastle, was returning from Morpeth in a post chaise, he was attacked by a foot pad a little north of Three-mile bridge, who, without speaking a word, discharged a pistol at the

driver, which blew off his cap, and burnt his face in a terrible manner, on which the horses took fright and galloped off, leaving the villain behind, who soon after attacked two persons on horseback, and ordering them to stand, presented a pistol at one of them, which flashed in the pan; on this they galloped off and left him. In the mean time, Mr. Outhbertson having arrived at Three-mile bridge, alarmed the people there, who went in pursuit and presently took him. He proved to be a soldier in his uniform, which he had turned inside out; on searching him, two pistols with some balls, also the driver's cap were found upon him. Next morning he was taken before John Blenkinsopp Coulson, esq., one of his majesty's justices of the peace, and being examined, confessed the whole affair.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1765 (Aug. 31).—The following curious advertisement appeared in a Newcastle newspaper of this date,—

“S. BOVERICK, WATCH MAKER,

In the Groat Market, Newcastle, begs leave to acquaint the Curious in Medal Way,

That he has discovered a particular neat Manner of taking the IMPRESSIONS off from all sorts of MEDALS; the matter of which they are made being far more durable than any yet made use of. He sells them either in a Collection in Frames, or singly gilt, or plain white; or if any Person chuses a particular Colour, by giving Time, may be accomodated. A specimen may be seen of both gilt and plain at the above place. N. B.—His collection of MINIATURE CURIOSITIES, made by himself, consisting of a Chaise, weighing but one Dram, drawn by a Flea; a Chain, Flea, Padlock, and Key, weighing but one third of a grain; Furniture of a Dining-Room in a Cherry-stone; Landeau and Six, Drawn by a Flea; Scissors, &c. &c. &c. is Shown at the above Shop.”

September 29.—As Dr. Askew of Newcastle was driving up the bank between Swalwell and his country-house at Whickham, and having sent off his footman upon an errand, some boys got up behind the chaise, which the Dr. perceiving, ordered his postillion to drive them off, but while he was so employed, the horses took fright, and in full gallop running over the edge of a steep hill, the chaise was overturned with great violence, and afterwards dragged a considerable way, till the parts which joined the fore-wheels to the carriage broke, and the horses becoming disengaged, left the rest of the chaise behind.* The doctor was very much hurt and bruised, but recovered.—*Gillespy's Col.*

* “Feb. 11, 1766, Mr. Hillcoat, ironmonger, of Newcastle, obtained his majesty's patent for the invention of an easy method to disengage horses instantly from a carriage, and prevent accidents, which are frequently occasioned by their taking fright.”

1765 (Sep. 30).—The pitmen in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, resumed their labour, after a *strike* of several weeks. The difference between the pitmen and coal-owners, was, according to the appeal of the former to the public:—"That most of the pitmen were bound the latter end of August, and the remainder of them were bound the beginning of September, 1764, and they served till the 24th or 25th of August, 1765, which they expect is the due time of their servitude; but the honourable gentlemen in the coal trade will not let them be free till the 11th of November 1765, which, instead of 11 months and 25 days (the respective time of their bonds) is upwards of 14 months, so the said pitmen are resolved not to work for, or serve the said gentlemen in any of the collieries till they be fully satisfied that the said article is dissolved, and new bonds and agreements entered into for the year ensuing. During the *strike*, on Friday September 13th, sir Ralph Milbanke got some of his pits to work, but in the afternoon of that day, a body of men cut the ropes of the gins, broke the machinery, and threw it down the shafts; in consequence of which a party of soldiers were sent from Newcastle, for protection. On the 18th, early in the morning, the mine of coal and one of the pits of Pelton Common colliery, belonging to Mrs. Jennison and partners, were set on fire, and though the owners offered a reward of £100. for the discovery of the offenders, and notwithstanding the vigilance of the military, the utensils of many both on the Tyne and the Wear, were destroyed and burnt on the 24th, and the coals both above and below ground set on fire. A letter, containing the most diabolical threats, was sent to Mr. Alderman Bell, at his residence in Westgate street, Newcastle, in consequence of which a reward of £100. and his majesty's pardon to any one (save the actual writer), was offered for bringing to justice the parties concerned. Hartley colliery, the property of Thomas Delaval, esq. where the men continued working as usual, formed the only exception to the strike being general throughout the district.—*Gent's Mag. Local Papers. &c.*

October 6.—Died, at Durham, Margaret Green, aged 102 years, she retained her senses until within a few months of her death.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 12.—Died at Featherston-row, near Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, Mr. Hugh Martin, aged 109 years, retaining his faculties to the last.—*Gent's. Mag.*

October 17.—Was shot at Ryhope, near Sunderland, by Mr. Robert Wilson of that place, a golden eagle, of a prodigious size. Its wings, when extended, measured from the extremities of each seven feet and an half: from the bill to the tail three feet: its longest claws six inches and an half; and its heart also was remarkably

large, being nearly as big as that of a sheep. This *rara avis* had been seen, some few days before, strike a bird, a little off Sunderland pier.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1765 (Oct. 19).—A new machine, of a particular construction, built under the direction of Mr. Robson, a very able and experienced engineer, for clearing the river Tyne, was launched off the Quay at Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

October 19.—At the flesh market here (Newcastle) were exposed to sale (on an average, from the best computation of many of the butchers, skimmers, &c. &c.) upwards of 130 slaughtered horned cattle, sold at 3d. and 2½ per lb; 50 calves, and 5,500 sheep and lambs at 3d. and 2½ per lb: and 60 swine at 2d. per lb:—In the poultry market upwards of 830 geese from 1s. 2d. to 2s. a piece:—pigs from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d:—turkies from 10d. to 1s. 4d:—ducks from 6d. to 8d:—and fowls from 5d. to 7d innumerable.—butter at 8d. and 9d. per lb: and eggs at 3 a penny.—in the corn market, wheat sold at 10s:—rye at 8s:—maslin at 9s:—and oats at 5s. the boll, of two bushels Winchester Measure.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—Great sorrow was expressed in the north, on the arrival of the intelligence that his royal highness the duke of Cumberland had died on the above day, in the 45th year of his age, after a few hours' illness, at his house in Upper Grosvenor street, London. The mourning in Newcastle was very general, as his royal highness had, by his condescension and affability, endeared himself to the inhabitants, of that town during his visits before and after the suppression of the rebellion, 1746.—*Local Rec.*

October.—The corporation of Newcastle granted a lease of a piece of ground in the Warden's Close, without the Westgate, for 99 years at the yearly rent of half-a-crown, whereon to build a lunatic asylum. This month, when its foundation was being dug, the workmen found an old brass seal, inscribed, "*Vis et Deus noster.*" Mr. Newton, the architect of this building, gave the seal to Mr. Wardell, then vicar of Corbridge. It was supposed to have been the first seal of the Black Friars, or some other religious house in Newcastle. The Warden's Close was a part of the ground belonging to the Black Friars.—*Brand.*



November 1.—There was a great storm at sea, which continued for several days; two cobs, with six men in them, were sunk at sea off Alnmouth, and two men perished in another boat in company, but the third man brought the two deceased ashore. Four fishing boats belonging to Holy Island, and two belonging to Bowmer, with four men in each, were overset and all perished. Two wherries in the

river Tyne were sunk, but by assistance no lives were lost. Upwards of sixteen keels were driven out of the river at Sunderland, and sunk at sea, by which upwards of thirty keelmen were lost, most of whose bodies were afterwards found washed on to the sands. There were twenty-two widows, and fifty-three children left by the sufferers. A very liberal subscription was raised for their relief.—*Local Papers*.

1765 (November 13).—Died, at Newbrough, near Hexham, Jane Hogarth, aged 106 years, who retained her senses and the use of her limbs until the last.—*Ibid*.

November 21.—Thursday, Mary Cockburn, was committed to Newcastle gaol, for a species of forgery artfully contrived. Under various pretences, she got some persons to draw up the forms of promissory notes, and when she had so done, she got other persons, by folding down the writing to set their names to them. These she negotiated, and raised large sums of money.—*Gent's. Mag.*

November 27.—A Jay was caught in a hedge, near Newcastle, being disabled from making its escape by means of its claws having been somehow entangled in its own neck.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 27.—A violent shock, like that of an earthquake, happened at Long Benton, a village about four miles from Newcastle, which disjoined all the houses built of stone upon a freestone rock. The inhabitants fled from their dwellings into the fields, expecting their fall every minute. The street opened and closed again from end to end; a gentleman's garden and some fields sunk above two feet, and many parts of Killingworth moor shared the same fate, but no lives were lost. This was occasioned by the sinking of the colliery at Long Benton which had been wrought completely out. It was a custom at that time in working collieries, to leave as much coal as they had dug away, but being a coal of great character in London, they had worked the coal pillars away, and fixed slight wooden ones in their stead, which not being sufficient to support a rock of two miles square, and seventy-five fathoms thick, being the depth of the coal pit, the whole sunk together.—*Local Papers*.

November.—“We hear from Sunderland that an assembly is held there during the winter season on every Thursday fortnight, and that the gentlemen of the independent hunt, every Monday fortnight hunt the fox till Candlemas: after which, they then, for certain, change it to Monday and Thursday weekly till Lady day.”—(*Newc. Jour.*) This paragraph shews the state of sporting society at Sunderland in 1765, and is very worthy of note.

November.—A beautiful little black horse from Shetland, in the north of Scotland, was landed at Newcastle, and measured only 33 inches high.—*Gent's. Mag.*

1765 (Dec. 1).—Early in the morning, a fire broke out in a weaver's workhouse in Sandgate, which burnt several webs of cloth, his looms, a large assortment of reeds; the damage amounting to upwards of forty pounds, being the weavers whole stock. The weaver was the last person in the workhouse, the night before, but could give no account of the occasion of the fire.—*Gillespy's Col.*

December 2.—This day, was committed to the gaol in Newcastle Mr. Thomas Jameson, an engraver of that place, who had a few days before been apprehended at Edinburgh, whither he had fled, charged with counterfeiting about a dozen five pound notes of the Newcastle Bank. Jameson, in conjunction with Mr. Whitehead, published an "*Explanation of the arms of the Incorporated Companies of Newcastle.*" Jameson engraved a view of Cawsey Bridge (Tanfield Arch), and various other views, &c., also a portrait of Dr. Isaac Watts, prefixed to an edition of the Psalms of David, "NEWCASTLE, printed for W. CHARNLEY at the Bridge End." At the assizes, Jameson was acquitted in consequence of the false swearing of the woman with whom he lodged. She kept a pie-shop in the High bridge.—*Local Rec.*

December 11.—Prince Joseph Abaissy, banished from Palestine, by the arbitrary power of the Grand Signior, arrived in Newcastle, on his tour through Europe. He had all suitable respect paid him, and the right worshipful the mayor made him a very handsome present on the corporation's account.—*Ibid.*

December 19.—A fire broke out in the stable of Dr. Brown, physician, at Newcastle, by which means the furniture of the stable was destroyed, and a horse of great value, burnt to death. By timely assistance it was happily extinguished without further damage. This accident happened, it was supposed, from the negligence of the servant.—*Gillespy's Col.*

December—This month, a woodcock was shot at Hartley, near Seaton Delaval, in the stomach of which was found a diamond of great value.—*Local Papers.*

About this year, the church at Wooler, in the county of Northumberland, was built. It is a neat commodious structure, situated on a fine eminence, and dedicated to St. Mary. The former church was a mean thatched building, and being burnt down, a brief was obtained for the erection of the present edifice.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

This year an act of parliament was obtained for inclosing the common of Bolbeck, in Northumberland, which contained about 12,000 acres of land.—*Ibid.*

According to an inscription on a marble tablet in the chancel of Wardon church, in the county of Northumberland, it was almost entirely rebuilt this year. In 1681, the churchwardens presented it

as "ruinous and the windows unglazed." Also, in 1759, archdeacon Robinson found "the body ruined, and divine service done in the chancel;" but, in 1763, by the strenuous exertions of sir Walter Blackett, £390. was raised by a brief to assist in repairing it; which work was very creditably and efficiently done. The nave and the chancel have been nearly all re-built from the foundations: but



WARDON CHURCH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

much of the old walls and windows of the transepts, which are in plain but neat early English style, remain; and the new architecture, in some measure, has been made to harmonize with such old parts of the walls as were sufficiently firm and plumb to stand.—*Hodgson's Northd. &c.*

1765.—Wesleyan methodist chapel, parish of Gainford, Barnard-castle, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1803 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1766 (Jan.).—A countryman making up a hedge near an old stone quarry in the vicinity of Sunderland, went about noon to get his dinner (which he had along with him) in a deep cavity or hollow place, where he thought he should best be sheltered from the weather; and as he went along, pulled off his hedging gloves or mittens and threw them down at some distance from one another; being seated and at his repast, he observed a raven to stoop on the wing, and take up one of them, with which it flew away, this surprised the man a little; and very soon afterwards the raven returned, flying just over his head, lighted upon the ground, took up the mitten, and went off with it as before; which startled him so, that he immediately rose from his place to see if he could discover the reason of so odd an occurrence, and to observe what became of his mittens; and he was hardly got clear from the quarry, before he saw a large quantity of ground, full of loose pieces of the rock, tumble down into the very place where he had been seated; and where, if he had continued a minute longer, he must have been crushed to pieces. Many people looked upon this as a remarkable instance of a particular providence; and indeed the circumstance very much favoured the opinion.—*Gillespy's Col.*

Early in January, at a colliery near Newcastle, the roof, being a shingly rock, made a thrust, that is the roof fell in, and imprisoned a few of the workmen, who must have perished, had not a new avenue

been speedily cut to get a communication to the working shaft, which is a work of a few days ; however, no lives were lost, one man had his leg, and collar bone broke, and some of the others bruised. And the same day a carpenter working on the engine-scaffold, mending the pumps, fell down thirty fathoms, and was killed on the spot. Also some gentlemen were hunting on Gateshead fell, the hare and three hounds fell into an old pit hole and were all killed.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1766 (Jan. 14).—In the evening a gentleman sent his maid to buy him half a hundred oysters at the boat lying at the Quayside, and ordered her to get them opened. The girl unconcernedly walked over the edge of the quay to step into the boat as she thought, but fell into the water overhead, and must have been lost had not assistance been at hand. What is very remarkable, she held the jug in one hand and the shilling in the other (which she brought for the oysters) when taken up, and received no further damage than being thoroughly ducked.—*Ibid.*

January 24.—William Fenwick, esq., of Bywell, being a fox-hunting near Prudhoe castle, on the banks of the river Tyne, after some hours hard chase, Reynard ran for safety into the drift of a coal pit,



PRUDHOE CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND.

where the men were at work, and the hounds following him, they pursued him near an hour, through the workings of the pit, from one end to the other, till at last they came up with him just as he was getting out at another drift, and before he could reach day, killed him. The workmen left off working, and followed the diversion, whilst the gentlemen hunters waited with impatience without to see the event.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1766 (Feb.).—As two poor labourers were digging in the manor of Rutchester (the *Vindobala* of the Romans), they found an urn full of gold and silver coins, many of which they disposed of, but Mr. Archdeacon, lord of the manor, advertising the same, recovered, as treasure trove, near five hundred silver, and sixteen gold ones, almost a complete series of those of the higher empire; among these several *Othos*, most of them in fine preservation. Many Roman vestiges have been found in this station. Some centurial stones, and a broken statue of Hercules which had been found here, were removed to London in 1761, by Mr. Duane, the antiquary; also silver fibulæ, coins of the lower empire, and bricks inscribed L E G. VI. V; have been found in this station, which appears to be rich in Roman antiquities. In June, 1766, some workmen employed in digging up stones near the place where the coins were found the preceding February, met with a cistern or trough, hewn out of the solid rock, which measured above twelve feet in length, four in breadth, and two in depth, with a hole at one end to drain it, and about three feet from the other end, a partition wall of stone and lime was run across it. There were found in it a tripod iron candlestick, a small instrument like a tooth pick, and the vertebræ and other broken and imperfect bones of some large animal which had been buried in it. To what purpose this cistern was designed is very uncertain.—*Gent's Mag. &c.*

February.—Died at Houghton-le-Spring, a women named Hewitson, at the great age of 116 years. She enjoyed good health and retained her senses perfect to the very last period of her life.—*Gillespy's Col.*

February 4.—About two o'clock in the morning, the watchman at the dock at Howdon, on the river Tyne, perceived a fire breaking out in the cabin windows of the Newcastle, Greenlandman, of Newcastle, lying at Howdon-quay, when he rung the alarm bell, which brought immediately all the workmen and inhabitants into the yard. The fire by that time had burnt through the deck, and got hold of the main-mast and rigging, so that they had only time to save her cables, and some other things in the fore-castle; she having come out of the dock the week before, had fortunately got none of her Greenland stores on board. The flames being so violent, they immediately

communicated to a brig belonging to Scarborough, which lay on the inside ; but by the activity of the workmen, they cut away her masts and saved her rigging and cables. It being near low water, there was no possibility of saving either of their hulls, which were burnt entirely to the keel ; and the wind being strong at south, with great difficulty the village was saved. As there was no person lay on board either ship, it was supposed to have happened from a fire made in the Newcastle, the day before.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1766 (Feb. 20).—Died this morning, near the Castle-garth, Newcastle, one Henry Jackson, in the hundreth year of his age ; who, notwithstanding his low station in life, was greatly respected on account of his very regular and pious life.—*Ibid.*

February 21.—The carriage of a coach, with a coffin covered with black cloth fixed upon it, drawn by four horses, and attended by one servant on horseback in mourning, passed through Newcastle, in a full gallop, to the great surprise of many spectators, who could no way account for the novelty of the appearance.—*Ibid.*

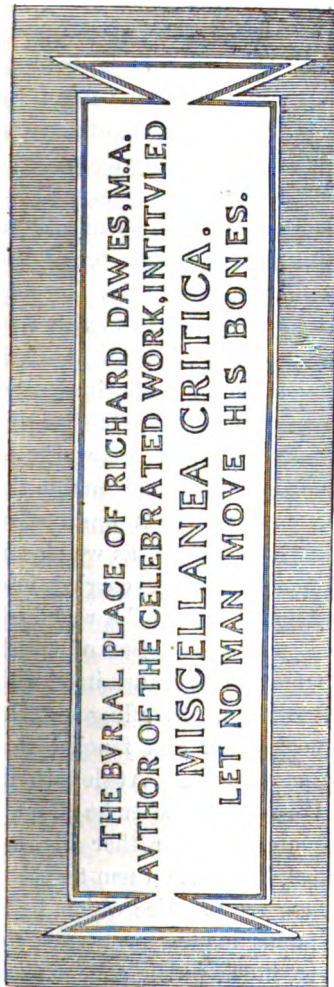
Early in March, a boy driving the gin of a pit at Norwood, near Ravensworth, receiving a blow from one of the horses, staggered over the edge of the shaft and fell to the bottom, being near seventy yards, without receiving further damage than breaking his thigh.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—An explosion took place in Walker colliery, by which ten lives were lost.—*Local Papers.*



DAWES' HOUSE, HEWORTH SHORE.—See Page 147.

CHAPTER VII.



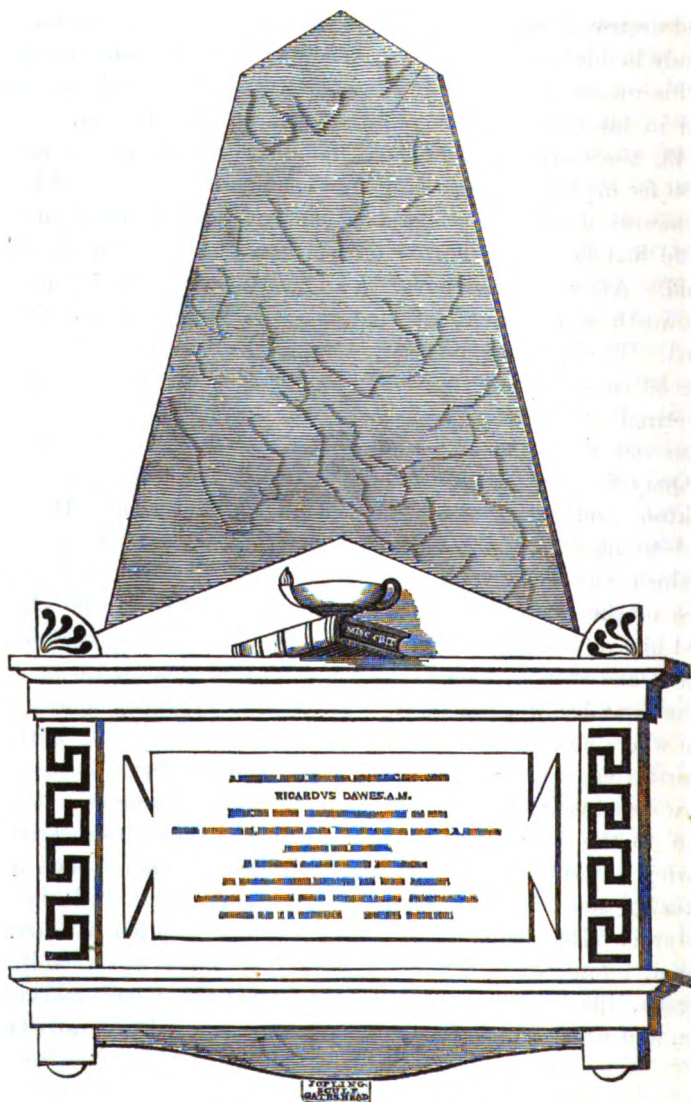
DIED, on the 21st of March, 1766, the celebrated Greek critic, Richard Dawes. He was born in the year 1708. The hamlet of Stapleton, in the parish of Market-Bosworth, in Leceistershire, is supposed to have been the place of his birth, because a Dr. Dawes, a great scholar and a searcher after the philosopher's stone, resided there about the beginning of the last century; but Mr. Hodgson conjectures that he descended from a family who were long seated in the parishes of Barton and Bampton, in Westmoreland. However, it is known that he enjoyed the instructions of Mr. Blackwell, who was master of Bosworth Grammar School. That his parents were not wealthy, may be inferred from his entering Cambridge as a scholar of the lowest rank; for in 1725. when he was only about seventeen years old, he was admitted a sizar of Emanuel College in that university. Two years after his matriculation he published a "Therno-Thriambic Idyl" on the death of George the First. In 1729 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and in 1731 was chosen fellow of his own

college in the nomination of sir Wolstan Dixie, Bart. who was a Market-Bosworth man. In 1733 he obtained the degree of Master of Arts, and, in the following year, was an unsuccessful candidate for the office of Esquire Beadle in Cambridge. The indolent and sedentary way in which it appears he lived at college, probably originated in a melancholy turn of mind, which loved to indulge itself in solitary contemplations of its own powers, and to look down upon the trifling labours and intriguing schemes of society that was about him, with a sort of misanthropic scorn, and to vent its embittered feelings in such harsh and sarcastic expressions as created him more enemies among the busy and self-interested many, than the splendour of his talents could procure him friends among the generous and learned few. When the state of his health rendered it necessary to have recourse to some kind of exercise, being of a strong athletic frame of body, and not over delicate in the choice of his company, he took to the practice of bell-ringing; and as such a genius could not stoop to mediocrity, he quickly became the leader of the band, and carried the art to the highest perfection. While quaffing with the ringers "the nut-brown draughts," he seasoned it with the rich spicery of wit and humour, though such conversations and company were unsuitable to a gowmsman. In July, 1738, he was appointed head master of the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle upon Tyne, and in the October following was admitted Master of the Hospital of St. Mary the Virgin, in that town. While occupying these offices, he was indefatigable in prosecuting his enquiries into the nature, peculiarities, and elegancies of the Greek tongue; and accordingly he published his "Miscellanea Critica." It was Mr Dawes' design, in this work, to afford such a specimen of his critical abilities, as should enable the learned world to judge of what might be expected from him, in an edition which he had projected of all the Attic poets, as well as of Homer and Pindar. Though his scheme was never carried into execution, he has obtained by his "Miscellanea Critica," a very high place among those who have contributed to the promotion of Greek learning in England, and, as such, his name will be transmitted with honour to posterity. This highly gifted man, according to Dr. Kippis, had a dash of insanity in his constitution, and fancied that all his friends had slighted him, or used him ill. At length he became involved in altercations with the Corporation, when he adopted a singular method of displaying his resentment, or rather his contempt; for in teaching the boys at school, he made them translate the Greek word for an *ass* into *alderman*—a practice which habit rendered so inveterate, that some of his pupils inadvertently used the same expression with very ludicrous effect, in the public college exer-

cise. In 1747 he published his complaints against his townsmen under the title of "*Extracts from a Manuscript Pamphlet, entitled TITTLE TATTLE MONGERS, No. 1.*" Mr. Hodgson amiably remarks:—"After reading this curious performance over more than once, I have no eyes nor judgement to find any symptoms of its being the produce of a disordered intellect. It certainly was not prudent to publish it at all: but one of his mottoes—" *Multa dinque tuli; tandem patientia victa est,*" shows that he had suffered indignities till his patience was conquered." The impression of the pamphlet was anxiously bought up and destroyed, and is now extremely scarce. Dawes was certainly unsteady in his attentions to his school, resentful of all interference with his management, and cuttingly satirical; but he was also firmly seated in his office, and a giant and a king where he was. At last in 1749, the Corporation executed a bond, granting him an annuity of £80 for his life, and allowing him to receive a stipulated fine on all renewals of leases of property belonging to the Hospital, in which one life had fallen in; he, on his part resigned both of the offices he held. After this he retired to a house on the banks of the Tyne, at Heworth shore, where at that time only three or four families resided. The banks of the river, on both sides, being in that neighbourhood covered with oak wood, the situation he selected was sweet and retired. His chief amusement was rowing a boat in the Tyne. He brewed good ale, and a humorous and eccentric blacksmith of Bill Quay frequently partook of it. During one year he resided at Monkton, and then returned to his former habitation. He is described to have been strong, tall, and corpulent, and his hair, which was thick and flowing, was snowy white. His nose had "some degree of the Socratic *Simotes*," or flatness, and when the children teased him on account of these peculiarities, he would shake his stick at them, and then perhaps throw some copper amongst them, enjoying the scramble it occasioned. He died at Heworth shore, in the house where he had lived about sixteen years,* and was buried in Heworth Chapel-yard. His grave is still marked with a headstone of rude workmanship, said to be the gratuitous offering of a country mason to the memory of a great scholar. The stone bears the following inscription: "In Memory of Richard Dawes, late Head Master of the Grammar School of Newcastle, who died the 21st of March, 1766, aged 57." Above the inscription is carved a trumpet, sword, and scythe. Before the chapel was rebuilt, Mr. Hodgson, the incumbent, carefully removed the stone, marked the grave, and when the building was finished, moved the frail "mem-

* See woodcut, page 144.

orial" back to its former place. A large block of basalt lies lengthways on the grave, in which is sunk a plate of bronze, with the inscription given in the wood cut at page 145. Mr. Hodgson also procured subscriptions for a neat mural monument of marble (represented below), bearing a suitable inscription, which was placed in the new chapel at Heworth in 1825.



1766 (March).—In the last week of this month as a tailor and his mistress had just gone through the nuptial ceremony in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, both seeming to enjoy the greatest felicity in accomplishing the ultimate of their wishes, the bride's magnanimity all of a sudden failing, she took to her heels; and though opposed, made directly home to her father's, four miles into the country, to the no small surprise of all present, and inconsolable mortification of the good tailor, whom she would not see, and carried her obduracy so far, as not to acknowledge him for her husband.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March 29.—A man quarrelling with his sweetheart in the Old Flesh market, Newcastle, he, to cool her passion, thought proper to dip her in the reservoir of the pant; but she, seizing him by the collar to save herself, dragged him in with her, and proving too strong for him, drenched him so thoroughly that with great difficulty (by the interposition of the spectators) they were parted, and the poor fellow made his escape in a most deplorable condition.—*Ibid.*

April 12.—A sailor being much intoxicated in a public-house in Newcastle, and displeased at being thwarted in his unruliness, of a sudden stripped himself naked, and after thrashing hecklers, barbers, pitmen, &c., who it seems, had been very active in endeavouring to mollify his rage, and wielding a blow at every body in the house, ran up the Side, with crowds of spectators flying before him, and entering another public-house, attempted to vent his wrath in the same manner; but meeting at last with some people, more fit for the encounter than the former, he was happily secured, and carried before a magistrate, who ordered him to the tower on the bridge; but as they were conducting him thither, he broke loose again in the same manner, and knocking down all before him, jumped over the battlement of the bridge into the river, swam to a boat, rowed it across the river, landed in the county of Durham, and got clear off, to the astonishment of upwards of 1,000 people.—*Gillespy's Col.*

April 13.—Were buried at St. Andrew's church, Newcastle, the remains of Roger Dove and Elizabeth his wife, whose ages at the time of their decease amounted to 202 years. They died within a day of each other, and were interred in one grave.—*Ibid.*

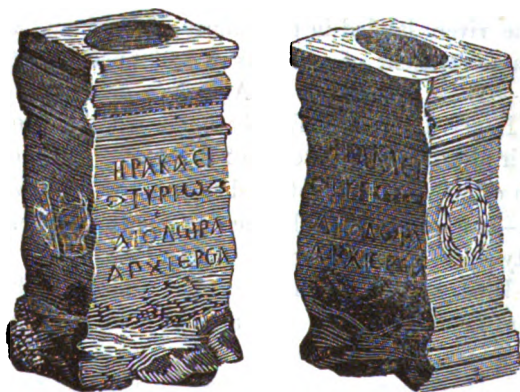
April 16.—An explosion took place at South Biddick colliery, by which twenty-seven lives were lost.—*Local Papers.*

May 6.—Died, at Fallow-field lead mines, near Hexham, Dorothy Frost, widow, aged 105 years, who at that great age was able to discover a pin upon the floor.—*Ibid.*

Same day, three houses were entirely consumed at Tinker Row, near Tanfield, by the carelessness of a person placing a candle too near a bed.—*Ibid.*

1766 (May 8).—A paper descriptive of an interesting altar with a Greek inscription, found at Corbridge in Northumberland was communicated to the society of Antiquaries of London, and was afterwards published in the *Archæologia*, together with an engraving of the altar, from which the annexed has been copied. The altar was formerly in the possession of the rev. Mr. Walton, vicar of Corbridge, whose collection of antiquities, after his death, was purchased by the rev. Mr. Graham of Netherby. It was claimed by one of the late dukes of Somerset, as being found in his manor of Corbridge; but Mr. Walton would not permit it to be removed, as it was discovered on his glebe. The chapter of Durham also failed in an attempt to obtain it for

their library. Another altar bearing a Greek inscription, also found at Corbridge, was removed to Northumberland-house in 1749, and afterwards lodged in the British Museum. This was also published in the *Archæologia* and is given below. There are some singular circumstances attending these altars, which may be perhaps deemed companions. They furnish the only Greek inscriptions which were ever found in Great Britain*; they both consist of a single hexameter; they are inscribed to Syrian deities; and they were discovered in the same parish of Corbridge.† Numerous other Roman remains have,

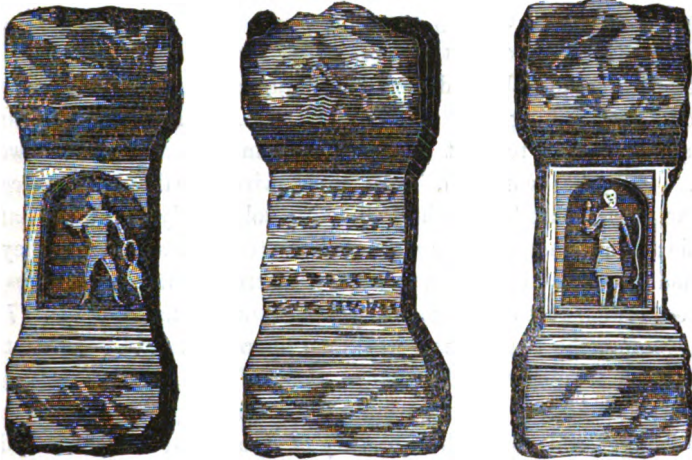


* There is a third in Horsley. Durham XXV.

† *Archæologia*, &c.

at various times, been discovered at Corbridge, among which are the sculptures represented below. The engravings are from the originals in the collection of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle. No. 1, of which the front and two sides are shewn, was long used as the pedestal of the market-cross at Corbridge; the inscription, which has occupied five lines, is nearly obliterated. No. 2, is the remains of a lion couchant. No. 3, represents a figure of Victory, and judging from others of the same kind, this seems to have been broken off a larger tablet. No. 4, is one of those stones fixed in the face of the wall, and has been made by the sixth legion.

No. 1.



No. 3.

No. 2.



No. 4.



1766 (May 20).—A couple that had been called out the Sunday before, went to be married at Kirknewton, but as they were entering the church, a former lover of the lady came riding up, and leaping off his horse, insisted on being married to her, as she had promised him; and producing a licence a scuffle ensued; on which the vicar called

for assistance, when a gentleman came up, who put an end to the fray, by insisting on the girl's taking her choice of the two lovers; when she chose him with the licence, and they went into the church and were married to the great disappointment of the other, who went off in a great rage.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1766 (June).—As some workmen were pulling down an old kitchen at Dilston-hall, they found several old silver coins; and in a vault adjoining, a wooden vessel lined with lead, of an uncommon shape and quite fresh.—*Local Papers.*

June 3.—A man was married at Allendale church to his fourth wife. It is somewhat remarkable that this man had been fifteen times published in that church, with different women, and by the same clergyman.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 12.—A great entertainment was given at Denton hall, the seat of the honourable Edward Montagu, M. P., for Huntingdon, on account of winning coal at West Denton. The coal was esteemed equal in quality to that of Long Benton, which was then worked out. All the workmen, with their wives, walked in procession to the great court before the hall, with colours flying and a band of music; from whence, after a general salute of three huzzas, they proceeded to a field east of the house, where several long tables were placed sufficient to contain all the company, consisting of 377 men and women, the tenants and workmen upon the estate. These tables were each furnished with a large piece of beef, mutton, or veal, to which were added, twice as many fruit puddings, the size of which may be guessed at by the quantity of flour used for them and the pies, which was no less than two sacks; the rest of the dinner consisted of two sheep, of 144lbs. each, and several hundred weight of beef, one of the sheep was roasted whole, and the other, with the beef boiled in a large brewing vessel. Abundance of ale, strong beer, and punch, was consumed. Dinner being ended, the company again returned to the great court, and being drawn up in a circle, with Mr. Montagu and his lady in the centre, they toasted the royal family, the donors, the coal trade, &c., accompanied with loud huzzas, after which they concluded the evening with country dances and other diversions, to the satisfaction of all present.—*Local Papers.*

July 21.—Newcastle was visited by a thunder storm, with very heavy showers of rain; the waters overflowed the channels, and run into several shops in the low part of the town, but happily little damage was done. At Stanington, on the Morpeth road, the house of Mr. Marshal was rent by the lightning, and the chimney thrown down, the windows broke, the china in a beaufet overturned and broken, and two dogs killed. The family being fortunately in a differ-

ent part of the house received no hurt. At Berwick they had the heaviest rain, with thunder and lightning, ever known at that place. The lightning struck the gallows and shivered it all to pieces; a man that was close by it, loading his cart, received no hurt. Great damage was done at several places in Northumberland by the heavy rains; particularly at Morpeth, the river was swollen so much, that several meadows were overflowed with water, and large quantities of hay carried away by it: many sheep were likewise drowned. In the west, they had heavy showers of hailstones accompanied with dreadful claps of thunder. A man belonging to Mr. Douglas of Harnham, near Belsay castle, was killed by the lightning. At Knaresdale, the river Tyne rose so suddenly, that several persons bathing were swept away, and had not time to save their clothes; the wife of Thomas Wallis, a weaver, as she was crossing on stepping stones, was carried away and drowned; the flood rolled a yard perpendicular. At Whitford in Allendale, the water rose in the same manner, almost instantly: several boys bathing, lost their clothes; one of them was carried down the stream for near half a mile, when luckily a man and horse ventured in, and with difficulty saved him from drowning.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1766 (July 24).—Died at Benwell, near Newcastle, John Hogg, 102 years old, who was a fisherman above 70 years. What is very remarkable, he was never known to swear an oath.—*Ibid.*

August 2.—A temporary pillory was erected on the Sandhill, Newcastle, and Jean Grey, for the crime of perjury, was placed and stood therein one hour at mid-day, as an example of public shame, in the presence of many thousands of spectators, who behaved toward her with great decency and humanity. She had been detected in the utterance of a forged note of the Newcastle bank, value five pounds. Upon her examination, she accused one Jameson, an engraver, with whom she cohabited, as the person from whom she got it, and said that she had seen him engrave and fill up notes, of which she made oath of the truth, and signed her examination before a magistrate. Jameson escaped, but was taken at Glasgow, and tried at the ensuing assizes. Grey could not think of hanging her lover, and well knowing the punishment that awaited her, she boldly denied what she had previously made oath of, upon which the judge ordered an indictment to be drawn for perjury, with intent to take away the life of a man who had been tried and found innocent. She was tried in an hour, found guilty, sentenced to be pilloried and transported seven years. She lived in the High-bridge, and was famous for making excellent mutton pies, to which place she returned at the expiration of her banishment, and resumed the making of pies, for which she had a greater demand than before.”—*Local Rec. &c.*

1766 (Aug. 16).—A captain in the army, who, a short time before, left Newcastle with a recruiting party, took his dog with him in the chaise as far as Leeds, from which place he put him out to walk to Derby; and on leaving that place in the afternoon of the above day, the dog was left by some accident, which he not long after finding, set out for Newcastle, where he arrived on the 18th, being less than six and forty hours in coming an unknown way of 180 miles. It is imagined his not having ate upon the road had occasioned his sorely jaded appearance, and his legs being much swollen when he arrived.

—*Local Papers.*

August 16.—Between eleven and twelve o'clock, being moonlight, a young man was observed walking on the burying ground at the Ballast hills, and looking at the tomb-stones, but perceiving he was observed by two men, he walked off; upon which they went to the place he had left, when they found a stick stuck into one of the graves, with a piece of white paper at the top; this they left till the morning, when going again, they found the earth had been newly turned over, which giving great room for suspicion, the grave was soon after opened, and the coffin of a child was found without the corpse, which had been interred but a day before.—*Ibid.*

August 18.—Died at Acklington, near Warkworth, Northumberland Mary Humphrey, aged 102 years. Her faculties were very strong.—*Ibid.*

August 22.—A most melancholy accident happened at Lambton colliery, near Chester-le-street. The workmen to the number of an hundred, had but just left off work, and three masons with as many labourers, had been let down, in order to build a partition, to secure the coals from taking fire by the lamp, when the said lamp being let down at the request of the masons, to rarify the air, the latter in an instant took fire, with a terrible explosion, made its way up the pit, destroying men, horses, and all in its passage. The noise of the explosion was heard above three miles round, and the flash was as visible as a flash of lightning; the men below were driven by its force up through the shaft or great tube, like balls out of a cannon, and every thing that resisted, shared the same fate. The neighbouring people being alarmed, collected in order to give assistance, but found only heads, arms, and legs, thrown out to a great distance from the mouth of the pit. The ground, for acres, was covered with timber, coals, &c. All the partitions, trap-doors, corves, wood props, and linings, were swept away, together with the engine for drawing up the coals, and all its apparatus.—*Brand.*

August 24.—Died, at Hexham, Elizabeth Robison, aged upwards of 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

1766 (August 24).—Early in the morning several of the inhabitants of the Side, Newcastle, were greatly alarmed by the cry of murder, a woman being attacked by a ruffian, who, after demanding her money, and meeting with resistance, had drawn a large knife, with which he was cutting her clothes off, and had very near stripped her naked, when her continued shrieks at last brought two men to her assistance; but the villain escaped, after giving one of them, who endeavoured to retain him, a shocking gash on his hand with the knife.* The accompanying engraving represents some of the fine old houses in the lower part of the Side, where the street retains much of its antient character (1842). It is so named from its standing on the "Side" of the muddy stream, called the Lort-burn, now covered over, but which runs unseen, down the middle of the thoroughfare and falls into the Tyne.



These "overhanging glories of the Elizabethan period" as Dr. Dibdin calls them, the silent witnesses of deeds of antient hospitality and generosity, never more to be enacted in this selfish and degenerate age, are now for the most part converted into warehouses and offices.

August.—Matthew Richardson was buried at Whalton, who died at Ogle, Northumberland, at the advanced age of 111 years.—*Whalton Reg.*

September 14.—A person named Christopher Hull, two shoemakers, named Rippon, and a weaver, in company together at a public house, at Wolviston, near Stockton, Durham, having quarrelled, went out to the fields to fight, when Hull received a stab in the heart with a knife, which killed him on the spot. At the assizes held at Durham in August 1767, James and John Rippon were tried for the murder of Hull, found guilty, and burnt in the hand.—*Gillespy's Col.*

Same day, in the afternoon, there fell at Haltwhistle, Northumberland a violent shower of hail accompanied with dreadful claps of thunder. The hailstones, were larger than pigeon eggs, some which were measured, were three inches and a half in circumference, and some exceeded four. This tremendous storm, made great devastation among the corn; and one field of oats was so much damaged as only to serve for fodder. The windows of the church were sadly broken

* Gillespy's Col.

while the people were attending divine service; and what is further remarkable nothing of the storm was felt at Henshaw, a village only four miles distant.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1766 (Sep.) 18.—Workmen began to lay the foundation for a covered cross and shambles in the market-place, in Hexham. They were erected at the charge of sir Walter Blackett, bart.—*Local Papers.*

September 23.—Died, in London, John Brown, D.D. vicar of Newcastle, an author of considerable reputation in his day. He was born at Rothbury, in Northumberland, where his father was curate, in 1715. His principal works are an "Essay on Shaftsbury's characteristics," 1751, and an "Estimate of the manners and Principles of the Times," 1755. The latter work attracted much attention at the time of its publication; and, as the author had formed a very low estimate of the state of English society at that period, he was assailed by a host of opponents, some of whom accused him generally as a wholesale libeller of his country; while others attacked him with the weapons of coarse satire, related exaggerated anecdotes of the "fiddling doctor's" own manners and principles—for, like Dr. Conyers Middleton, he sometimes amused himself with the violin—and charged him with drawing his "Estimate" from himself. He also wrote the tragedy of Barbarossa, and is supposed to have assisted Avison, organist of St. Nicholas', Newcastle, in his "Essay on Musical Expression." Dr. Brown received an invitation to Petersburg from the empress Catherine, to assist in drawing up a plan of education, which he accepted, and had made preparations for the voyage, when he became unsettled in his mind, and committed suicide at his lodgings in Pall Mall.—*Rambles in Northd. &c.*

In the last week of September, the wife of a master of a ship at Blyth, was delivered of five male children, all likely to live.—*Chatto's Col.*

Same month, as some labourers were digging near Berwick, they discovered a quantity of silver coins, which were found to be Roman, and struck in the reign of Augustus Cæsar.—*Local Papers.*

October 18.—At Dotland park, near Hexham, a brood goose, which had cleared 10s. a year to the owner for twenty eight years past, was, this month, cut off by a decay of nature, at the age of 32 years. An uncommon instance of longevity in those animals.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 25.—In honour of the king's accession to the throne, the bells in Durham cathedral were rung for the first time after being re-hung on one level, the tenor bell being 35 cwt. The third bell had been re-cast by Mr. George Dalton, the eight bells were framed and re-hung by Mr. Francis Ellis. The exactness of the new bell both in tune and tone to the peal, the construction of the frame, and

easy ringing of the whole, were allowed by all competent judges to have been completed in a masterly manner; the length of each side of the new frame being 16 inches shorter than the old one, in which the bells hung in two heights.—*Local Papers*.

1766 (Nov. 2).—Died, at Great Whittington, in Northumberland, John Robinson, in the 103d year of his age, who, until within a few years of his death, could read without the help of spectacles.—*Ibid*.

November 8.—A horse which had been left at the door of an inn, in the Bigg market, Newcastle, took fright, and ran furiously down the street and past the east end of Denton chare, then by the head of the Side, and King street, to the Long stairs, which it leaped down with amazing expertness, and turned along the Close, in full speed to the lime kilns at the foot of the Forth banks, where he was taken. In his flight through the streets several people were knocked down and injured, particularly a man who had his skull fractured, and was otherwise terribly bruised, and a woman who had her collar bone broke.—*Ibid*.



HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND.

November 10.—Owing to incessant rain with a boisterous south west wind, the Tyne was very high; the haughs near Hexham were overflowed; and Mr. Lorrain, who was endeavouring to ride the west ford, near Beaufront, was carried down the river by the rapidity of the current, and drowned. On the 30th of December, the body of Mr. Lorrain was found, being left by the tide near Redheugh. The distance between the place where he was drowned, and that where the corpse was discovered, is not less than twenty miles, two thirds of which is the unnavigable part of the river.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1766 (Nov. 11).—Died, at Whalton, near Morpeth, Margaret Pickering, aged 100 years, who retained her faculties to the last.—*Local Papers*.

November 21.—A whale, measuring 17 yards in length, was caught by the crew of a ship coming from Stockton to Newcastle, and was towed into Seaton in the county of Durham; when it touched the ground it made such a noise as to be heard several miles off.—*Ibid*.

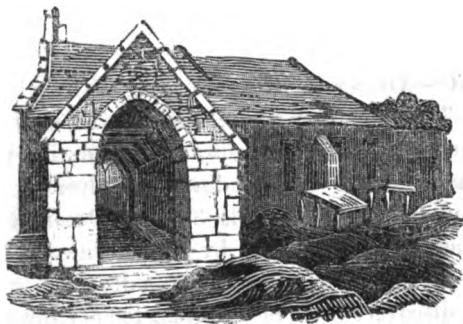
November 21.—The prisoners in the house of correction, at Newcastle, attempted to burn the house, by setting their bed straw on fire, hoping no doubt, to effect their escape; but the affair being happily discovered, before the building took fire, their scheme was frustrated.—*Gillespy's Col*.

December 2.—Died, at Hexham, Mrs. Mary Bell, aged 104 years. She was the oldest person in that town.—*Local Papers*.

This year, died at Sunderland, John Heather, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

The number of ships cleared at Newcastle this year, amounted to 4144, of which 458 were to foreign ports; and the number cleared at Sunderland amounted to 4229; which last though less in tonnage, is 85 more than from Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

The chapel at Widdrington, Northumberland, which had remained in a deplorable state for upwards of forty years before, was, this year, repaired by sir George Warren, since which time duty has been uniformly done in it. It is an antient fabric, and consists of a nave and chancel, which have undergone frequent alterations and repairs. The chancel is 36 and a half feet by 17 feet 7 inches, and has an oratory or *chantry porch* projecting from it on the south, lighted by two windows, and opening under one arch into the chancel itself, and by another into the south aisle of the nave. This porch is separated from the rest of the church by an old oak screen, and has an altar sink-stone in the south wall. The east window of the chancel has



WIDDRINGTON CHAPEL, NORTHUMBERLAND.

three lights, and in its north wall there are two sepulchral cells, one with a flat, the other with a pointed arch, and the Widdrington arms over it, but both of them without recumbent figures. The altar sink-stone is unusually large. Three corbules still remain under the east window, which probably assisted in supporting the *ciborium* or canopy of the altar, before the time of the reformation.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1767 (Jan. 2).—Friday, there was a great storm with the wind at N. E. the sea run very high, and great damage ensued among the shipping at Shields. In the afternoon of Saturday, the Morning Star, of Stockton, from Bergen, with deals and spirits, was stranded on the Herd, near Tynemouth. The crew and part of the cargo were saved; but the hands of the sailors were so benumbed with cold, that one of them died next morning. At Sunderland the tide was so high, that a ship on the stocks was carried across the river, and staved against a house on the opposite shore and did considerable damage. Great quantities of timber were washed away by the water.—*Gillespy's Col.*

January 7.—Died, at Newcastle, Mrs. Katy Jefferson, spinster, aged 70 years, who kept Katy's coffee-house there for the last fifty years of her life. The great resort of company to her house did not prevent her exercising her industry in other respects, particularly in spinning in which she excelled; one web of 19 yards she brought to such perfection, that she refused to take half a guinea a yard for it; which was offered her by a lady; but it is to be observed, that she worked at this web no less than *twenty* years.—*Ibid.*

January 14.—There was so much snow in Weardale, in the parish of Stanhope, and county of Durham, that an old midwife of great repute was obliged to be carried to a wife in labour near six miles on a fir deal, escorted by two men, one on each side, and drawn by a third, the snow being level with the fences.—*Ibid.*

January 16.—A large seal was seen on the ice in the river Tyne.—*Ibid.*

January 29.—Died, in Westgate Street, Newcastle, John Richardson, aged 101 years, who had served Mr. Swinburne's family, in the capacity of gardener, upwards of 50 years.—*Local Papers.*

January.—There was at this time, at Mr. Langstaff's, of the Wham, in the parish of Hamsterley, in the county of Durham, a Magpye, which sat seven eggs in its nest, in a tree, during a very severe storm, and hatched six young ones.—*Gillespy's Col.*

This month, died at Ulgham, near Morpeth, John Brotherwick, aged 105 years, who retained his faculties to the last.—*Newc. Courant.*

February 10.—John Storey a blacksmith, in the neighbourhood of Belford, Northumberland, having courted the daughter of Mrs. Eleanor Elliot, a widow, who kept a farm at Beal, near Haggerston,

going one day to her house to ask for his sweetheart, found none at home but the old woman, who, on his asking for her daughter, told him she was not at home, but inquired to what purpose was his courting her daughter, for she could not bring him above £20. and if he would please her she would wish him to one of £500. On which he replied, he would ever with gratitude acknowledge the favour. Then I am the person (says she) if you'll accept of the offer; on which a bargain was struck immediately, and on the above day they were married at Kilo. The bridegroom was only 18 years of age and the bride 64.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1767 (Feb. 13).—A most shocking murder was perpetrated at Har-raton, near Lambton, in the county of Durham, by Ann Wilson, on her own husband, as he was sitting by his fire side. She having perceived him sleeping, came behind with an axe, and struck him on one side of his neck with all her force, and cut through the gullet: upon which he immediately started up with all the horror and pangs of a dying person; but she repeated the blow, and clove him on one side of his head, which brought him to the ground, and he expired directly. The woman, was committed to Duham gaol; and at the assizes in August the same year was found guilty, but insane.—*Ibid.*

March 10.—During the night, the gaol of Newgate, Newcastle, was broken open, by undermining the wall of the east side, and forcing out the facing stones, which made a hole 15 inches by 13 through which the following prisoners made their escape, viz:—George Gaull a flax-dresser, under sentence of death for house breaking and horse stealing, a notorious character. He was tried at the Newcastle assizes about five years previous, for breaking into the town clerk's office, and taking out of a desk above £300 in cash. He had an accomplice with him, named Joseph Barns, of the same trade, who turned evidence for the king, and so jesuitically evaded the letter of the law that both were acquitted, although the judge and jury believed them guilty. Also William Wilkinson, alias Hobson, for forging a seaman's will, and personating Hobson, who died on his passage from the West Indies, by which he received upwards of £50. Had he not pursued his villainy he would not have been suspected; but he also forged a letter of attorney, some time after, to receive the said Hobson's wages, by which he was detected by the agent at the pay office, and committed to Newgate. Likewise John Ellerton, for horse stealing. When taken, had £17. in his pocket, and the iron shackles that are usually put on horses feet to prevent their being stolen. One of the messengers dispatched in pursuit of these notorious felons, on his arrival at Jedburgh, on the 13th, got intelligence of their having passed through that place the same day; on which he applied to the bailiffs of the

town for their assistance, who granted him two men, to set off in search on different roads, appointing a place to meet the next morning; when on Friday night, the two men heard they had stopped at an hedge ale-house about ten miles north of Jedburgh, where they directly went, and found them all three in bed and had them secured. Mr. Orde the gaoler on receiving intelligence of their capture, set out with proper assistance, to take them again into his custody: and on the 18th, Gaull and Wilkinson were brought to town, and safely lodged in the dungeon of Newgate. Ellerton the horse stealer being left at Morpeth, a prisoner in the county gaol.—*Ibid.*



ARCHWAY OF NEWGATE.

1767 (March 16).—Died, at Gateshead, Edward Train, gardener, who went by the name of "*The Hermit.*" He had lived six and twenty years in a cottage in his garden, and during that time had never lain in a bed. The reason of this retired life was said to have been occasioned by a disappointment in love.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March.—Died, at Jesmond, Grace Coxon, aged 107. years. She was the oldest parishioner of St. Andrew's, Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

March 27.—A terrible accident happened at a colliery, near Fatfield, in the county of Durham. The colliery was 80 fathoms deep, and on the morning of the above day, when all the hands were at work, a tremendous explosion occurred, by which 39 persons lost their lives. The bodies were found in a most mangled condition.—

Local Papers.

March 30.—The vane was affixed to the spire of St. Ann's chapel, Newcastle, and the next day the removal of the scaffold was commenced.—*Ibid.*

March.—A very whimsical accident happened at Durham. Two jolly tars had purchased a four wheeled post chaise in London, which they had got a painter in Long Acre to ornament with anchors and

masts and cannon, and a crowd of sea objects. In this chaise they would needs be driven post with six horses down to Alnwick, where their sweethearts lived. They came the greatest part of the way *like smoke* as the phrase is; but at Ferryhill they were so impatient to get along, that they would not wait to have the wheels of their machine greased, crying "Damn it, she has had tar enough for all the voyage!" so off they came full speed; but just as they entered Durham, their wheels *took fire*, and the chaise was all in a blaze about them. They hallooed prodigiously, till a number of the populace gathered round, and threw pails full of water upon them, which extinguished the fire; but the poor tars, singed and drenched, made a most ludicrous appearance.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1767 (April 10).—Eleven horses were burnt to death in a coal pit at Chester-haugh, occasioned by the carelessness of the keeper, who had left a candle burning in the stable, by which the hay and straw were set on fire.—*Ibid.*

April 13.—A fine brig, called the Margaret and Winifred, was launched off Mr. Forster's quay, in Hillgate, Gateshead, being the first ever built in that street.—*Local Papers.*

April 18.—Richard Clark, was executed at York, for breaking into a house near Knaresborough, in that county. As this man was one of the *Faw Gang*, which so long infested the county of Northumberland, it may not be uninteresting to relate the particulars of his life, which he left behind in his own hand writing:—He stated that he was born at Spital, near Berwick upon Tweed, in 1739; that in 1750, his father and mother, along with William Fall, John Fall, and his wife, and some others, were committed to Morpeth gaol for breaking into a shop in that town, and at the quarter sessions they were ordered to be transported for seven years. About a year after, he met with a cousin at Richmond fair, who had returned from transportation before the expiration of the time, and soon after met with his father and mother who had also returned from transportation; and travelled about the country, and at different places put him to school. They afterwards went to Ireland, where they, with four or five more of their gang, were imprisoned for theft, but discharged for want of evidence. From thence they returned to England, where they continued their old practices of house-breaking, horse-stealing, and pocket picking. About eight years before his execution, he was convicted at the assizes at Newcastle, for a highway robbery, and transported, but returned again in less than a year, and joined his father and mother with the rest of the gang. In 1762, he was convicted of horse-stealing at Shrewsbury, where he received sentence of death, but was reprieved the day before that fixed for his execution, and afterwards

transported to Maryland, from whence he also soon returned, and coming to Warrington in Lancashire, he was informed of his wife having been hanged at Coventry. He then went in quest of his mother, and met with her at Newcastle. A short time after he was committed to Carlisle gaol for house-breaking, of which he was convicted, and in 1765, transported to Virginia, but soon returned from thence, met with his mother once more at Newcastle, and broke into several houses in the summer of 1766, but got little money or other effects, except from a house near Durham, from whence he took about £13., and the 24 guineas which he got in Mark Hattersley's house, the robbery for which he suffered. Several times when short of money, he enlisted as a soldier, but always soon deserted.—*Local Rec.*

1767 (April 29).—At the quarter sessions for Newcastle, a bill of indictment was preferred against a farmer at Horton, in the county of Durham, for buying a cow and a calf at Newcastle fair, and selling them again at the same fair; not having kept or fed them for five weeks, as required by the statute of 5 Ed. VI.—*Gillespy's Col.*

April.—This month, a very curious engine for extracting water out of ships, &c., was tried at Belford, in Northumberland. It was invented by Mr. Cuthbert Clark of that place. This machine with two men only, raised in one hour upwards of 20,000 gallons of water twenty feet high.—*Local Papers.*

May.—Workmen commenced pulling down some part of Dilston Hall, near Hexham, pursuant to orders from the governors of Greenwich hospital, it being in a very ruinous condition.—*Ibid.*

May 13.—A poor woman near Byker Bar, being accused of stealing some raddishes out of a garden, was so affected with the charge against her, that she cut her throat in a desperate manner, while she was in bed with her husband.—*Gillespy's Col.*

May.—As some workmen were clearing away the earth and rubbish from a limestone quarry, near Corbridge, at the depth of about 18 inches from the surface, they found four perfect human skeletons. The bones were very fair, and exactly in the form they had been in the body when living. They seemed to have been young full grown persons, as the teeth were white and complete in the jaws. The oldest people in the neighbourhood did not remember having heard any tradition, nor of any person having been buried near this place.—*Local Papers.*

May 31.—Married at Whitley chapel, in Northumberland, by the Rev. Mr. Brown, Mr. John Anderson, an eminent farmer at Oardley, to Miss Jane Broadwood, of the Lee, both near Hexham. It was remarked at the wedding, that the bridegroom was a Presbyterian, the bride a Quaker, the father a Roman Catholic, the bridegroom's

man a Baptist and the bride's maid a Churchwoman.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1767 (May).—Died, at Newsteads, near Coquet Head, Jane Wilson, aged 101 years, who retained all her faculties.—*Local Papers.*

June 4.—Late at night, John Hutton, a pavior of Newcastle, having been drinking with another person of the same trade, on their returning from the public house, were met at the head of Pudding chare, by four drummers, belonging to the military quartered in that town, who by some means began a quarrel; whereupon Hutton was knocked down, and the other beat with great cruelty, but vociferously crying out murder, happily brought some people to his assistance, who secured the drummers, and found Hutton lying speechless, and almost dead, and directly carried him into a house adjacent, where his skull was examined by a surgeon some time after, and found to be mortally fractured, supposed by the fall, so that he lingered till the following Sunday morning in that senseless and deplorable state, when he expired. The drummers were committed to Newgate.—*Gillespy's Col.*

June.—About the beginning of this month, was killed at Blackwell, near Darlington, a ram belonging to Mr. Hill, which was perhaps the largest sheep ever killed in England. He weighed when alive 32 stones, and when dead his four quarters weighed 15 stones. His tallow weighed four, and his skin three stones and a half.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—Was constituted (under the sanction of the right honourable lord Blayney, grand-master in England), the lodge of free and accepted masons, held at brother Fife's, publican, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, the said lodge having assumed a new name, viz:—that of St. Nicholas—at which time and place, brother Ansell, the master, with his officers, were duly installed, according to the usual ceremonies on such occasions, by brother Potter, master of Sion lodge, North Shields, who, after having invested each officer with the proper jewels of their order, took their places accordingly.—*Local Papers.*

July 4.—As some workmen were digging in a field belonging to the town of Darlington, in order to lay the foundation of a house, they discovered the skeleton of a man. The bones were remarkably large, and by the position they were found in, it is imagined, the body had been buried in the earth quite doubled.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 8.—John Cowser, who had for some time practised the business of a hat-dresser in Newcastle, was committed to Newgate to take his trial at the next assizes, being charged (together with some others) with robbing J. Robertson, a gingerbread dealer in Sandgate, of a guinea in gold, 13s. in silver, and some half-pence. By the information of Robertson, it appeared, that on his return home on the previous monday night, about 12 o'clock, from Stagshaw bank fair (where he had been disposing of his goods) when near the gate at the



SAND GATE, NEWCASTLE.

east end of the quayside he heard the above Cowser informing some people in his company, that Robertson was just then returning from the fair; which raising some suspicion in Robertson, to avoid passing them, he stepped into a seige on the quay, but had not been long there when Cowser and his accomplices came to him, seized him by the throat and threw him on his back, in which situation Cowser held him until the others took from him the above sum. After this they attempted to throw him down the seige, but finding that impracticable from the resistance he made, they dragged him from thence and threw him over the quay into the river. The water being luckily low at the time, he received but little hurt from the fall; and after waiting for some time upon the shore until the villains were gone, he got up, went home, and on Wednesday made complaint thereof to the right worshipful the mayor, charging the said Cowser as an accomplice in the fact; whereupon Cowser was apprehended and, after examination, committed. He refused impeaching his accomplices.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1767 (July 17).—The important cause relating to the liberties of the ancient corporation of Morpeth, was tried at Westminster-hall before Lord Mansfield and a special jury, when a verdict with costs was given in favour of the burgesses. The news of this happy event was received by the people of that borough with great rejoicings. The anniversary of this day was celebrated at Morpeth for several years.—*Local Papers.*

1767 (July 20).—A violent storm of thunder, lightning, rain, and hail, took place in Newcastle and the neighbourhood. A large ball of fire fell into the river Tyne, near Howdon, within a yard of a ship lying at anchor. A butcher's boy, driving a lamb, and his dog were struck by the electric fluid on Killingworth-moor, the lamb and dog were killed on the spot, and the boy died after being carried home to Shields. A four year old race horse belonging to Mr. Brandling, was killed by the lightning in a pasture, near Gosforth.—*Local Papers.*

July 26.—Sunday, Mr. Dent, late house-apothecary to the Infirmary, Newcastle, after having shewn great depression of spirits for some time, called on the maid-servant of the house where he was then lodging at Berwick, and gave her his watch and pocket-book, telling her to give them to her mistress, and acquaint her he was going to drown himself:—whereupon he went out and walked towards the sea; in which time the servant had informed the family, who immediately followed Mr. Dent, but before they could overtake him he had thrown himself from a high rock into the sea, and in the fall had struck his head against the rocks at the bottom, so that though he was directly taken out of the water with some remains of life, he expired in a few minutes after.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 29.—The Rev. Nathaniel Whitaker, D.D. and the Rev. Sampson Occum, an Indian of the tribe of Moneghan, in the colony of Connecticut, in North America, arrived in Newcastle from Scotland, where, as well as in the southern part of England, they had been very successful in soliciting assistance for the Indian academy, founded and carried on by the Rev. Eleazer Wheelock, of New England, for educating youths in the English tongue. During their stay in Newcastle, the mayor and corporation, became donors of the sum of twenty guineas, and many private gentlemen contributed liberally. They preached at Alnwick, Morpeth, Shields, Sunderland, Durham, Stockton, and nearly £200. was collected in the chapels.—*Local Papers.*

September 5.—Died, at Newbigging-by-the-Sea, Mr. Thomas Johnson, commonly known by the name of Recorder: he was many years older than the parish register of the place which begins in 1662.—*Newc. Cour.*

September 5.—Was thrown upon the sands at Blyth, a very rare and beautiful fish, weighing between 70 and 80lbs. shaped like the Sea Bream; the length was three feet and a half; the breadth from back to belly almost two feet, but the thickness from side to side not above six inches. The mouth small for the size of the fish, forming a square opening, and without any teeth. The eyes remarkably large, covered with a membrane, and shining with a glare of gold. The

cover of the gills like the salmon. The body diminished much towards the tail which was forked, and expanded twelve inches; the gill fins were broad, about eight inches long, and placed horizontally: a little behind their insertion, the back fin took its original, where it was about seven inches high, but sloped away very suddenly, running down very near the tail, and at its termination became a little broader; the belly fins were very strong, and placed near the middle of the body; a narrow fin also run from the anus to the tail. All the fins, and also the tail were of a fine scarlet; but the colours and beauty of the rest of the body, which was smooth and covered with almost imperceptible scales, beggared all description; the upper part being a bright green, variegated with whitish spots, and enriched with a shining golden hue, much resembling the splendour of the peacocks feathers; this by degrees vanished in a bright silver; and near the belly, the gold began again to predominate in a lighter ground than on the back; in a word this curious and beautiful fish very much surprised the inhabitants of that part of the coast, where it had never been observed before.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1767 (Sep. 21).—This day, at noon, as John Ramshaw, a servant under William Craggs, a farmer at Langley, near Durham, was returning from the plough to dinner, the draught-horses which he was leading, took fright, and a chain of the harness, catching him by the leg, he was dragged near a quarter of a mile, when a miller seeing the catastrophe, followed the horses which run into the brook near the mill before they were taken; so that the poor man was killed in a most shocking manner.—*Ibid.*

September 22.—A little boy about three years of age, belonging to a publican on the quay, Newcastle, was unfortunately smothered in a folding bed; the servant having in a hurry put it up, without ever examining whether the child was in it or not, so that two hours were expired before the child was missed.—*Ibid.*

September.—A bull was brought from abroad, for his grace the duke of Northumberland, not above 24 inches high.—*Ibid.*

October 3.—At night, as three countrymen were passing down the Butcher-Bank, they were met by two soldiers, and in the straitness of the passage, one of the countrymen happening to jostle against them, words ensued, when one of the soldiers drew his bayonet, and stabbed Robert Richardson, a waggoner, in four different parts, the shoulder, the back, the belly, and the groin; so that the unfortunate man was obliged to be directly carried to a surgeon, who dressed his wounds, one of which was near four inches deep; and soon after he was sent to the Infirmary. The soldiers were both apprehended.—*Ibid.*

1767 (Oct. 10).—The high frosty winds, and the great fall of rain had retarded the harvest so much in the north, that great quantities of oats, pease, and beans, were on the above day in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, uncut. Cheviot-hills, and the other high lands to the west of that town, were two days before covered with snow, and an excessive rain on the 9th, raised the Tyne many feet.—*Chatto's Col.*

October 15.—At noon, Sir Walter Blackett, bart., went from the abbey at Hexham to the river, accompanied by all the gentlemen and freeholders in the neighbourhood, a pair of colours being carried before them, drums beating, music playing, attended by the company of butchers with marrow-bones, and cleavers; then followed the company of free-masons; and last came Sir Walter and all the gentlemen, and in this manner proceeded to the river, where he laid the first stone of the bridge, (which measured six feet by 17 inches, upon which was this inscription, "Laid October 15, 1767"), in the presence of some thousands of spectators, to whom three hogsheads of ale were given upon Tyne-green; after which there was a grand entertainment given at the abbey to the gentlemen and freeholders, who amounted to one hundred and seventy; and in the evening several hogsheads of liquor were drunk by the populace, and the streets rung with "Success to the bridge of Hexham," and "Long live Sir Walter Blackett." Sept. 1770, Sir Edward Blackett, bart., laid the last stone, and gave a genteel entertainment. It was built under the direction of Mr. Golt, and consisted of seven arches.—*Local Papers.*

October 16.—A fire broke out in a house near Witton-le-wear, by the foulness of the chimney, which consumed great part of the house, a large quantity of wool, and eleven firkins of butter besides many other valuables.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 19.—As two boys, in order to descend a pit shaft, near Tanfield, were got on the hook, a third thoughtlessly leaped suddenly upon the rope after them, and set the gin amain, by which one was killed, and another dangerously hurt.—*Ibid.*

November 2.—A gentleman shot a seal swimming up the river Tyne, at Newburn, which measured four feet in length.—*Ibid.*

December 28.—Died at Morpeth, Mrs. Isabella Lumsden, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

This year, was discovered at Rutchester, a coffin cut in the rock twelve feet in length, containing many bones, teeth, and vertebræ.—*Ibid.*

This year, died at Hexham, David Chambers, a weaver, aged 100, He was under the duke of Marlborough in all his campaigns. When upwards of 90, he again joined the army, and had the honour to fight

under prince Ferdinand on the plains of Minden; from thence he returned again to Hexham, mounted the loom, and worked till within a little time of his death.—*Chatto's Col.*

1767.—A project was set afloat for making a navigable canal to pass from Stockton by Darlington to Winston, with collateral branches to Yarm, Croft-bridge, and Piers-bridge. The ground was surveyed by Messrs. Brindley and Whitworth; the expense was calculated at £63,722. and estimates were made of the carriage of merchandize, and the products of the country, which presented a flattering prospect to speculators; but from want of funds the project was relinquished without application to the legislature. In 1812, a survey was again made for a canal by Mr. John Rennie.—*Guide to Dinsdale.*

1768 (Jan. 7).—A wherry, in which were five men coming up the river Tyne to Newcastle, was carried away by the ice against the bridge, and stuck there till three of the men were hauled up by ropes, after which the tide forced the wherry through the bridge, with the other two men, where they were obliged to remain till the return of the tide brought them back again to the bridge, when they were relieved from their almost-frozen-to-death situation, in the same manner as their companions had been before. The weather for some time had been very severe with heavy falls of snow, so that the carriers from the north and the west could not proceed.—*Local Papers.*

January 21.—A fine bull was baited on the Sandhill, Newcastle, which, with some others, was bought by a subscription of several gentlemen, and ordered to be killed and distributed to the poor. January 25th, another bull was baited on the Sandhill, when a young man, a sailor, venturing too near, the bull caught him with his horns, and gored him in such a manner, that he died next morning. Several other people were very seriously maimed. A few days after, the bull-ring was removed by order of the magistrates, in consequence of the repeated accidents which had happened by this cruel and barbarous practice.—*Ibid.*

February.—Died, at Lumley, in the county of Durham, Mr. Thomas Holne, aged 107. He was well acquainted with the history of his own times, and retained his senses to the last.—*Ibid.*

March 21.—There was a contest at Morpeth for the representation of that borough in parliament. The candidates were,—Peter Beckford, esq.,* sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., and Francis Eyre, esq. The votes were, for Mr. Beckford 51; for sir M. W. Ridley 29; and for Mr. Eyre, old voters 24, new or mandamus voters 12—being in all 36. At the close of the poll, the returning officers an-

* Nephew of William Beckford, the patriotic lord mayor of London.

nounced, quite unexpectedly, the two former duly elected, as they rejected the new, or mandamus voters. Mr. Eyre declared his intention of appealing to parliament. On an appeal to the House of Commons in February 1769, sir M. W. Ridley carried his election by a majority of 122 to 26. On the arrival of the news in Newcastle, there were great rejoicings.—*Local Rec.*

1768 (May).—There was a dangerous insurrection of the sailors in the port of Tyne, which was made under pretence of raising and regulating their wages. They did much mischief at Sunderland, and at North and South Shields.”—*Ibid.*

June.—Died, at Swalwell, near Newcastle, John Cotterill, publican, aged 102 years. He had been many years employed at Crowley's factory.—*Local Papers.*

June 14.—The first coals from the new-won colliery at Tanfield-moor, belonging to the right hon. the earl of Kerry, were conveyed down to the staith at Derwent-haugh, and were considered by judges equal in quality to any coals brought to the river Tyne.—*Ibid.*



CHAPTER VIII.



GENTLEMAN named Easterby, residing at Harrington in the county of Durham, and his servant, riding home from Sunderland, on the 17th of June, 1768, were stopped near the turnpike-gate by four soldiers, one of whom robbed him of £1. 5s., the servant at the same time striking the soldier and giving him a wound on the face, was knocked off horseback, and Mr. Easterby afterwards stabbed with a bayonet in different parts, but fortunately not mortally wounded, he having on a large surtout. The servant recovering, directly went to Sunderland and acquainted one of the officers, who made very active search at the soldiers' quarters to find who was absent; and after waiting some time for one of them, he came, and was directly taken, with his face bleeding from the wound, and having behind him the waistcoat with which he had disguised himself; so that the officer, after interrogating him severely, brought him to a confession, and his accomplices were immediately secured, and all four confined. After undergoing a severe flogging, they were turned over to the civil power. Their names were John Slaid, George Forster, John Adams, and Thomas Croaker. Slaid and Adams received sentence of death, the others were reprieved. Slaid only was executed August 12th. He confessed the fact and died penitent, but declared he was led astray by his three companions.—*Local Papers.*

June 18.—There was at this time, at Mr. Hillecoat's, ironmonger, in Newcastle, for the inspection of the curious, the old bell belonging to St. Ann's chapel in that town, with the following inscription upon it:—"Mr. AMBROSS BARNES, Mr. GEORGE THEORSBY, SHERIFFS, 1658," from which it would appear, that at that time (during the usurpation), the government of the corporation of Newcastle, was in two sheriffs without a mayor.—*Local Rec.*

1768 (June 25).—An elderly woman was found dead on the common about four miles south west from Wolsingham in the county of Durham, (in a very naked condition) also a girl along with her, about ten or twelve years of age, folded in each others arms. A person in that town stated that they were asking relief on Tuesday the 14th of June, when the woman said she belonged to the Quay-side, Newcastle; the girl was her grand-daughter, whose parents were dead. They had been attempting to cross the common to Middleton or Barnard-castle, but lost their road, and so perished; the weather was so stormy, and the cold so severe, as to kill several horses, and sheep in that neighbourhood the same day.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 18.—A boat full of people overset in crossing the river Tyne, near Newburn, by which accident two men were drowned; immediate assistance being had, the rest were saved with great difficulty.—*Ibid.*

July.—A cucumber was sold in Hexham market, which measured 14 inches in length, 10½ inches round, and weighed 36 ounces. It was raised in a common hot bed, and was looked upon as an extraordinary production.—*Ibid.*

August 1.—John Irvin, a collier, together with his wife, and one Thomas Mosley, were struck down by lightning, as they were walking together on the Durham road, near Birtley. The two men recovered but the woman died immediately; her clothes were burnt to ashes.—*Ibid.*

August 5.—The well known Alice Marley, who kept a public house at Picktree, near Chester-le-Street, being in a fever, got out of her house, and going into a field where there was an old coal pit full of water, she fell into it and was drowned.—*Local Rec.*

September 10.—At Wooler they had a very violent storm of thunder and lightning accompanied with a heavy shower of rain, which caused the water to run from the upper parts of the town to the lower with such impetuosity, that the pavement in many places was torn up, and stones of near a hundred weight carried away with the torrent. An apple tree was also torn up by the roots by a flash of lightning. After the rain ceased, there fell a heavy shower of hail.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 12.—A widow in Long Benton, having left two children in her house, while she went out, they, by way of amusing themselves, set fire to some straw, which speedily communicating to some gleanings of corn, set the furniture of the house in flames. Assistance being immediately got, the house was unroofed, which cleared it a little of the smoke, when the people entered at the door, and found two other children, belonging to the neighbourhood, sitting in the house, incapable of flying from the danger which surrounded them,

and who would inevitably have perished in a few minutes. One of the woman's children was terribly burnt, and all the bedding, wearing apparel &c., reduced to ashes.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1768 (Sep. 30).—At the finishing of the water corn-mill, near Alnwick, belonging to his grace the duke of Northumberland, and about to be tenanted by Mr. Cockburn, an elegant entertainment was provided for the engineer, to which the inhabitants of Alnwick were invited by the common crier. Among the great variety of dishes, there was an enormous *dumpling* of a globular figure, which measured eight feet in circumference, and contained sixty-eight pounds of wheat flour, forty-two pounds of currants, twenty-eight pounds of suet with other ingredients, and, when boiled, it weighed one hundred and forty-seven pounds. A table was provided at the mill-door, where it was served to a numerous and genteel company, amidst a vast concourse of people, who went to view the huge curiosity. Upwards of two hundred persons dined, and the day was concluded with drinking the health of the duke and duchess of Northumberland, and the noble house of Percy, with many loyal and appropriate toasts. The whole was conducted with great propriety, amidst the roar of guns and harmonious music, as to give it the appearance of an old English banquet.—*Local Papers.*

September.—The floor of a smith's shop on Elvet bridge, Durham, fell down just as the smith opened the door to enter it, and all his tools fell into the river; and next the whole fabric fell.—*Ibid.*



ELVET BRIDGE, DURHAM.

October 8.—At five o'clock in the morning, as a poor woman at Cullercoats was rubbing the corn out of her gleanings, the snuff of a candle set fire to the straw, by which accident, the house was entirely burnt, together with an house adjoining, with all the furniture.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 18.—The remains of William Wilkinson, esq. were deposited in the chantry of the Holy Trinity, in St. Andrew's church, Newcastle. The body of Mr. Wilkinson was interred in the burial place of sir Adamarus de Atholl, the large stone of which, it was supposed, had not been removed since his death, as, upon opening his grave, only two skulls were found, and there appeared the flag-work in which the bodies of sir Adam and his wife had been deposited about 400 years before. On the stone which had originally been inlaid with brass, thus much of the inscription remained:—"Hic jacent Dominus Adamarus de Atholl, Miles & D'na Maria, uxor ejus, quæ obiit Quarto decimo Die Mensis ——— Anno Domini Millesimo Tricentesimo ——— Animarum propitiatur."—*Local Rec.*

October 31.—Died, in the poor house at Sunderland, Margaret Callender, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

(Oct. or Nov.).—A flax warehouse in Smithfield, Stockton, occupied by Mr. John Allison, was burnt down.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

November.—Samuel Crisp of Claxton, near Norton, in the county of Durham, had a black ewe, nineteen years of age the previous spring, which had brought him two lambs every year; and what is still more extraordinary, eighteen couple of them were black ones, and she was at the above period likely to live and have more; so profitable a creature of the kind, it was thought, could not be equalled, he having four times lost his whole stock of sheep, since he had this lucky ewe, herself only excepted.—*Gillespy's Col.*

December 31.—Died, at Black Callerton, near Newcastle, Cicely Fenwick, aged 113 years. She retained all her faculties to the last. *Local Papers.*

The front and steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in the city of Durham, were chiselled over this year, and a large new window was put in at the east end.—*Surtees.*

This year, died, Thomas Holles Pelham, who was created marquis and duke of Newcastle upon Tyne, in the year 1715. These titles became extinct at his death.—*Brand.*

About this year the Town-hall in the centre of the market-place at South Shields, was erected by the dean and chapter of Durham.—*Surtees.*

This year, on removing a large heap of stones, called the "Apron full of stones," near Hedgeley, supposed by the country people, to be

the work of the devil. They were found to cover the base and fragments of a cross; the base is circular, twelve feet in diameter, and having four rows of steps. In Armstrong's map it is called "Fair Cross."—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1769 (Jan.)—A gentleman after having purchased and paid for some groceries, at a shop in Gateshead, by mistake left his purse behind him in which were ten guineas; and soon after missing it, went back to make enquiry, when he was informed by the people in the shop they knew nothing of it, nor could account for its being gone, unless picked up by a woman in the shop at the time, but whom they knew nothing of. A day or two after the gentleman having business in a public-house on the Quayside, overheard some workmen talking about a purse of gold being found by some children, concealed in the cavity of their mother's spinning wheel, and which had made some noise in their town. From circumstances, and the description they gave of the purse, he immediately conjectured it to be his; and on being informed of the parties' name and abode, went with proper assistance to the place, when he recovered the whole sum.—*Gillespy's Col.*

January 23.—A person named Lumsdon, a farmer at Ponteland, near Newcastle, offering a galloway for sale there, for which he was bid eight guineas, had a mind to shew the company some pranks he had learned it, when, at repeating *God save the King*, it rose upon its hind legs, and the rider happening to give it a sudden check with a curb bridle, it fell directly over, and its head lighting on a stone, it was killed on the spot. The rider was unhurt.—*Ibid.*

January 26.—Died, at his house in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, in the 81st year of his age, Mr. John White, printer. Mr. White was the oldest printer in England; he came to Newcastle in 1708, and was the first publisher of a newspaper north of the Trent, which he regularly continued under the title of the Newcastle Courant, from its commencement August 1st, 1711 (which see), to the time of his death: being a citizen of York, he was elected one of the sheriffs for that city in 1734, and executed the office with as great punctuality as the distance would admit. In 1688, his father printed at York, the prince of Orange's manifesto, it having being refused by all the printers in England, and for which he was sent a prisoner to Hull castle, where he was confined till that place surrendered. He was afterwards rewarded, by King William appointing him his majesty's sole printer for the city of York, and the five northern counties, as appeared by his majesty's grant (in the possession of Mr. Saint, his partner and successor), dated at Hampton Court, May 26th, 1689. Mr. Saint continued the publication of the Newcastle Courant until his death, July 31st, 1788.—*Local Rec.*

1769 (March).—Died, at Houghton-le-Spring, Margaret Forster, aged 119 years. She retained her faculties to the last, and never made use of spectacles.—*Local Papers.*

March 16.—Died, aged 66 years, Arthur Young, the noted *whistling buckle mender*, at the Head of the Side, Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

April 6.—St. John's chapel at Sunderland was opened, when the rev. Mr. Coxon, vicar of that place, preached a sermon from Eccles. chap. v. and part of the 1st verse, "*Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God.*" Mr. Ebdon played on the organ, and the other gentlemen of the choir of Durham performed cathedral service, with occasional anthems. The chapel was elegantly finished after the design of John Thornhill, esq., who presented (with the approbation of the bishop of Durham) the rev. Mr. Hall with the benefice, and on the following Sunday, April 9th, he preached a very suitable sermon from the 2nd book of Chron. chap. vi. verse 40. There were above 1,400 persons present. The chapel was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, on the 5th of October, the same year, by the name of St. John, which had been previously given to it. Late on Christmas eve, December 24th, 1770, a paper parcel was delivered at the house of the rev. Mr. Hall. It contained a silver chalice and paten of an elegant construction, with the following inscription beautifully engraven on each, "For the use of St. John's chapel, Sunderland," to which they were accordingly applied at the communion the next day. They were the gift of Mr. Thomas Thompson. The remainder of the communion plate was the gift of James Donnison, esq.—*Ibid.*

April 12.—In the morning, Richard Twizell, pilot, of Blyth, two of his sons, and a man named Short, being off at sea, at their great fishing lines, a sudden storm arose, which prevented them making the land, so that by hard labour, wet, and cold, they soon became exhausted. About 12 o'clock, Twizell's eldest son died, at 4 o'clock John Short, and at six in the evening Twizell's youngest son, who, a little before, was casting out water, and fell overboard, but his father catching his clothes, got him in again. The old man, a hardy seaman, remained in the boat all night, and next day, he was descried near Hauxley by some fishermen, who brought him ashore, and sent him home on horseback, whilst the coble, with the dead bodies, was taken about to Blyth. Twizell was extremely ill, the skin being off his hands, his arms much swelled, &c. The spray had wet them so much that Short's clothes were obliged to be cut off, and the skin and flesh came off his back. When the first two died, Twizell proposed casting them overboard, but the young lad, who was about 13 years of age, cried and desired his father to keep them. Twizell was about 50

years of age, and his eldest son about 21, both of whom had served on board a man of war. Short was an industrious young man, who supported his parents.—*Local Papers*.

1769 (April 15).—A person riding a mare, big with foal, on the town moor, Newcastle, near the quarries, one of the town's bulls gored her in the belly, so that the foal came out, and both immediately died, but the man escaped.—*Gillespy's Col.*

April 15.—Early in the morning, a melancholy accident happened near Wooler. A young man going to the coal pits with a wain, he having been much in liquor the preceding evening, on account of giving in his name to have the banns of marriage published, the horses missed their way in the dark, and fell altogether down an old pit near Barmoor; where, on Monday, the cart was found sticking about half way down the pit shaft, and the man and horses ten fathoms below, most shockingly mangled.—*Ibid.*

April 30.—About one o'clock in the morning, a man who lived in the Close, near the bridge, Newcastle, was alarmed, while in bed, by a person calling out for help, and imagining somebody had fallen into the river, made directly to the place, when he found a man hanging by his hands over the battlements of the bridge, whom with difficulty he recovered. The man had intended throwing himself over, but his resolution had failed him. He was so much weakened by fear, and hanging by his arms that he could not stand upon his legs for some time afterwards.—*Ibid.*

April.—A block of solid silver, weighing 311lbs., and another of pure gold, weighing 18lbs., were shipped at Newcastle, both of which were produced from materials found in that neighbourhood, and manufactured at a refinery near that town.—*Local Papers*.

April.—Two tradesmen of Newcastle, talking of a paragraph in the papers respecting a gentleman who intended to hang a room with lottery tickets, drawn blanks; one of them said if he could get a sufficient number to buy he would do something of the same kind; whereupon the other replied, he had a blank in his pocket, and would sell it to him, which was immediately purchased for one penny, and was subsequently found to be a prize of £20. the stock-broker having made a blunder in the intelligence he had sent to the first owner of the ticket, at the time it was drawn.—*Gillespy's Col.*

May 10.—The south arch of Sunderland-bridge, near Durham, fell down, and two men who were at work on the battlements narrowly escaped; one of them fell down, but catching hold of a large stone on the part that was standing, he hung till assistance was given to him. The north arch also was in so bad a condition, that it was rebuilt a few months after.—*Local Papers*.

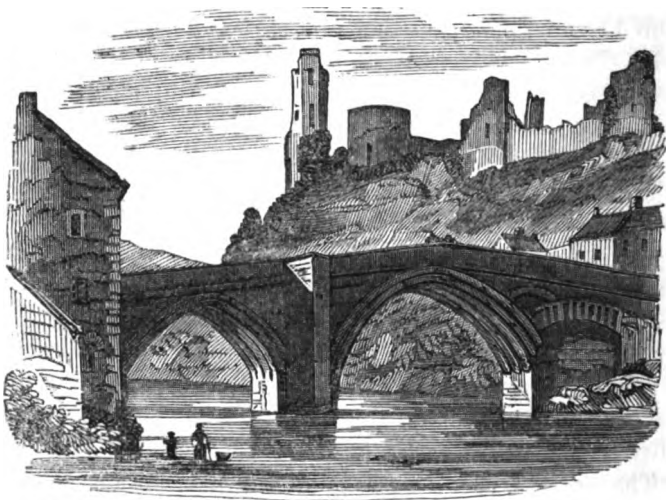
1769 (June 13).—This morning the rev. Mr. Coxon of Sunderland, was called to baptize infants at three separate houses, where every house had twins.—*Gillespy's Col.*

June 24.—A waterman and his son, rowing a boat, laden with stones, by the shore near Clifford's Fort, at the mouth of the Tyne, struck against a rock and bilged; so that the leak sunk the boat immediately, and they both perished before any assistance could be rendered. The day following their bodies were found and buried in one grave.—*Ibid.*

July.—A person was recommended to the Infirmary at Newcastle, who belonged to Long Witton, in Northumberland, affected with the most violent convulsion in the diaphragm ever known; in so much that in the country, it was attested, his hiccup had been heard near two miles distance; and the noise was so hideous and frightful when he walked in the fields, that the cattle fled from him; in confirmation of this, it was stated that he had been heard from the Infirmary, in various parts of the town, at considerable distance; He was comparatively easy when placed in an horizontal position. He was a young man, and in strong health in other respects.—*Ibid.*

July 5.—Died, in the keelmen's hospital, Newcastle, William Wood, a keelman, aged 113 years. His brother died about nine years before, aged 110 years.—*Local Papers.*

August 1.—There were great rejoicings at Barnardcastle on account of Lord Barnard's birth-day, the only son of the right hon. the earl of Darlington. Many curious fire works were exhibited on the occasion.—*Ibid.*



BARNARDCASTLE BRIDGE.

1769 (Aug. 4).—At Durham races a temporary bridge which was laid over the Wear, near the race ground, fell down with about 50 people upon it, but the water being very shallow, happily no lives were lost, nor did any ill consequences follow, except the loss of hats, wigs, &c., and a hearty ducking.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September.—While the Gottenburgh merchant of Newcastle, commanded by captain Fothergill, was lying in Gottenburgh harbour, about nine o'clock one evening a very large owl was seen to alight on the top gallant yard, where upon a boy went up to it, and the bird immediately struck its talons into his arm in such a manner that he was obliged to cry for assistance, which was not effected, till the bird was almost stifled by one of the sailors grasping its neck. It afterwards was recovered, and brought to Newcastle and proved to be the Bubo, or Horned Eagle Owl. The wings when extended measured near six feet.—*Ibid.*

September 24.—The church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, was reopened for divine service, after having received extensive repairs.—*Local Papers.*

September 27.—A fire broke out in a house at Eggleston, in the county of Durham, and before the flames could be extinguished, it and two houses adjoining were burnt to the ground. It was supposed to be the work of incendiaries.—*Ibid.*

October 23.—Died, the hon. Baby Vane, son of Henry, first earl of Darlington, and M. P. for the county of Durham in 1754.—*Sharp's Knights of Durham.*

November.—Died, in Gallowgate, Newcastle, a butcher named Westgarth, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

December 12.—Died, in the Close, Newcastle, Mr. John Laws, wool-comber, aged upwards of 100 years. He was a soldier at the time of the Revolution in 1688.—*Ibid.*

December 19.—Died at Staindrop, in the county of Durham, Elizabeth Carter, aged 103 years.—*Ibid.*

Lobsters were caught in such abundance on the coast of Northumberland, that the sum paid about this year for the annual exports from Newbiggin and Newton-by-the-Sea, amounted to near £1,500.—*Entertaining Naturalist.*

This year Crossgate-moor, near the city of Durham, was divided (200 acres). The dean and chapter reserved sixpence per acre and the mines.—*Surtees.*

When Wallis wrote in 1769, the figure of Neptune represented on the succeeding page, was in the wall of a cottage at Carraw, in the parish of Haltwhistle, Northumberland; but, in 1799, removed to the walls at Hallington by Mr. Soulsby, who was then proprie



tor of Carraw. Wallis says it was dug up in the station of Procolitia or Carrabrough. At present it presides over a fountain in the stable yard at Wallington.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1770 (Jan: 1).—A pie was conveyed from Howick to Berwick, to be shipped for London, for sir Henry Grey, bart., the contents of which were as follows:—two bushels of flour, twenty pounds of butter, four geese, two turkeys, two rabbits, four wild ducks, two woodcocks, six snipes, and four partridges, two neats' tongues, two curliens, seven blackbirds, and six pigeons. It was esteemed a great curiosity, and was made by Mrs. Dorothy Patterson, housekeeper at Howick. It was near nine feet in circumference at the bottom, weighed about twelve stones, and would require two men to present it at table; it was neatly fitted with a case and four small wheels to facilitate its use to every guest.—*Local Papers.*

January 4.—The following curious advertisement appeared in a Newcastle newspaper of this date:—"This is to acquaint the PUBLIC THAT on Monday the 1st inst. being the Lodge (or Monthly Meeting) Night of the Free and Accepted Masons of the 22nd Regiment, held at the Crown, near Newgate, Mrs. Bell the Landlady of the House broke open a door (with a Poker) that had not been opened for some years past, by which Means she got into an adjacent Room, made two Holes through the Wall, and by that Stratagem discovered the Secrets of Masonry; and she knowing herself to be the first Woman

in the World that ever found out that Secret, is willing to make it known to all her Sex. So any Lady that is desirous of learning the Secrets of Free Masonry, by applying to that well-learned Woman (Mrs. Bell that lived fifteen years in and about Newgate) may be instructed in all the Secrets of Masonry."

1770 (Jan. 31).—The first fair for horned cattle, sheep and horses, was held at Stockton, when a very great number of each kind were exposed to sale. The fair was ordered to be held annually on the above day, and the 9th of May.—*Local Papers*.

January.—Died at Berwick, Mr. Palmer, a gunner, aged 108 years, who retained his senses to the last. He was so fond of angling that he attended the tide regularly throughout the year, and never experienced sickness.—*Local Papers*.

February 12.—Died at Norton, near Stockton, Christopher Middleton, captain in the royal navy. He was sent by the government to discover a passage throughout Hudson's Straits, to the South Sea, and was greatly esteemed for his skill in maritime affairs. Captain Middleton's discoveries were, by designing men, made matters of great doubt in his life-time, but recent discoveries have proved them otherwise, when the satisfaction, which he ought to have had in his life-time, cannot now be conveyed to "the dull cold ear of death."—*Brewster's Stockton*.

February 17.—This night about ten o'clock, a large ball of fire passed over Newcastle, from the north west to the south east, occasioning much astonishment from the great light it gave. A boy standing at a door in Pilgrim street was struck down, but happily received no hurt; and a woman in Park-house lane, in Gateshead, was much scorched in the face. It was followed by uncommon lightning the whole night.—*Gillespy's Col*.

February 20.—The gentlemen of the Sunderland hunt, turned out a bag-fox at Newbottle; just as the dogs went off a hare started, which they killed at view; they fell on the fox's scent again, and after a chase of twelve miles, he leapt down a lime kiln, and crept out at the eye, where the dogs took up the scent again; he soon after took through a conduit and eluded them for some time, but being again closely pressed, he leapt down a rock, and took the river; but not being pursued, he soon returned, and was again taken up by the dogs, and after another chase for near fourteen miles he ran on board a ship at Ayre's quay, where he was taken alive by the sailors.—*Gillespy's Col*.

March 7.—On account of lady Strathmore's coming of age, a great entertainment was given at his lordship's seat at Gibside, to a number of gentlemen of the two counties. An ox was roasted whole,

which, with other victuals and some hogsheads of strong ale, &c., were given to the populace, many hundreds having assembled there to celebrate the day. The house was open for ten days to all persons who chose to repair thither to regale themselves. His lordship's agents gave a genteel entertainment in Newcastle, to the people employed in his service in that town and neighbourhood. Ringing of bells and other demonstrations of joy were likewise shewn on the occasion. This is the lady, who, seven years afterwards married the notorious Andrew Robinson Stoney.—*Local Rec.*

1770 (March).—Died, at Heighington, in the county of Durham, Margaret Todd, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

This month, in digging a cellar in Northumberland street, Newcastle, a human skeleton was found about three feet from the surface of the earth. The bones were uncommonly large. The place had been a garden.—*Ibid.*

April.—A curious candle was made in Newcastle. It consisted of forty-four branches, issuing in four circular divisions from the main stem, and forming four circles at the top, where they all terminated horizontally with each other, and would cast forty-five lights. It weighed 22½ lbs. From the bottom to the top of the main stem it was about three feet. It was intended to be lighted up at the Cappadocian entertainment in Newcastle, on the Wednesday in Easter week, being the day of Mr. Wilkes' enlargement. It was invented and executed by Mr. Kelly, of the Quay side, at whose house the curious were allowed to see it until the above day.—*Ibid.*

April 18.—The friends to liberty in Newcastle, assembled at various inns and public houses to celebrate Mr. Wilkes' enlargement, where very elegant entertainments were provided, and many loyal and constitutional toasts were drunk, all which were conducted with the greatest order, decency, and decorum. A subscription was, at the same time opened at Nelly's coffee-house, for the support of Mr. Wilkes, as the defender of the liberty of the subject, which met with all desirable success. The magistrates being apprehensive that some outrage would be committed in the town that night, gave strict orders to the constables to be diligent in their respective wards, in order to quash any tumults and apprehend the offenders, and by orders from the same quarter, pad-locks were placed upon the doors of the bell-lofts of the several churches to prevent the bells from being rung. In the evening, the tragedy of Cato was performed by desire, when a great number of Mr. Wilkes' friends attended. Happily the civil officers did not find one irregular person. Among the many curious methods to celebrate this day, the following by the journeymen of Mr. Taylor Ansell, tobacco-pipe maker in Gateshead, may be considered worth relating :—They had a

sheep, 45lbs. weight, roasted whole at the workshop fire, which was laid down at 45 minutes past six o'clock in the morning, when two sat down and turned it 45 minutes, and then were relieved by other two, who did the same &c. till 45 minutes past eleven, when it was taken from the fire, and cut up by Mr. Ansell (who assisted all the time), and eaten on the shop bench, every man having brought his knife, fork, and trencher, with 45 large potatoes, 45 biscuits, and 45 quarts of ale, with great mirth and decorum. Many loyal healths were drunk. Some hundreds of people were spectators of the preparations and of the feast. Mr. Ansell sent as a present to four different clubs, viz. :— The King's Head, Cappadocian, Mr. Cowling's and Mr. Byerley's, 45 pipes each, 45 inches long, tipped and glazed, and marked on the shank, "J. W. 45." At Durham, on account of Mr. Wilke's enlargement, the morning was ushered in with ringing of bells, which continued the whole day. In the evening an effigy was carried round the town on an ass, and afterwards burnt in a large fire in the market place, where 45 gallons of beer were given to the populace. On the breast of the effigy was printed in large capital letters, "I HAVE BETRAYED MY CONSTITUENTS;" on its back, "LANGUARD FORT." One hand held out "BRIBERY," and the other "LIBERTY." Most of the houses were illuminated, and a pole carried round the town with 45 candles upon it. At Darlington, there were great rejoicings on the the same occasion, the bells were rung all the day, and 45 pieces of cannon were fired off, and in the evening there were bon-fires and illuminations. An effigy was carried round the town, and afterwards committed to the flames, At Alnwick, Sunderland, Shields, Morpeth, Hexham, and various other places, there were great rejoicings on the above occasion.—*Local Rec.*

1770 (May 10).—Died, Mr. Charles Avison, organist of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle. He had been upwards of thirty years an organist in that town, and was much admired for his skill in the profession, and for his excellent compositions. Mr. Avison was author of a work intituled "*An Essay on Musical Expression*" He had been a pupil of the celebrated Geminiani, who held his talents in high esteem, and when on his road from Edinburgh in December, 1760, paid Mr. Avison, whom he had not seen for many years, a visit. This venerable composer, then aged 88, was so much delighted with the performance of Mr. Avison's eldest son (13 years old), upon the harpsichord, that he took him to his arms with an earnestness which affected them both, then turning to his father, he said, "my friend, I love all your productions. You are my heir. This boy will be yours, take care of him. To raise up geniuses like him, is the only way to perpetuate music."—*Ibid.*

1770 (June 20).—The west end of St. Thomas' chapel, at the north end of Tyne Bridge, Newcastle, was pulled down, and after the angle was rounded off to widen the entrance to the town, it was rebuilt with brick in a motley manner. It was opened on Sunday, February 17th, 1782, having been curtailed a second time to widen this very contracted spot. It was newly chipped all over on this occasion, the steeple at the west end was taken down and a new one built, and a cross put up at the east end.—*Brand*.

June 23.—Died, at his house, New Burlington street, London, Mark Akenside, the eminent poet and physician. The Akenside family belonged to Eachwick in Northumberland; but his father was a reputable butcher in the Butcher bank, Newcastle, where the poet was born on the 9th day of November, O. S., 1721. He received the first rudiments of his education at the royal free grammar school, Newcastle, and subsequently attended the school of Mr. Wilson, minister of the Unitarian chapel. At the age of eighteen he went to Edinburgh to receive an education suitable for a dissenting minister, but relinquished this study for that of physic, His uncle at Eachwick paid all the expences of his education. It is as a poet that his celebrity was established; as a physician, although he wrote some valuable works, yet he had no great practice or fame. He published his most notable work "The Pleasures of Imagination," before he had reached his



HOUSE IN WHICH AKENSIDE WAS BORN.

twenty-third year. His character and genius have been diversely estimated ; but most writers agree in ascribing to him the titles of a gifted poet, a man of genius, of learning, and of taste. He died of a putrid fever, in the fifty ninth year of his age, and is buried in the parish church of St. James', Westminster.—*Biog. Brit.*

1770 (June 28).—Sweethope Mill, near Hexham, was washed away by the heavy rains which had fallen in that neighbourhood.—*Local Papers.*

July 1.—The burial-ground belonging to the church at Stockton, being too small, an additional piece of ground was, this day, consecrated by bishop Trevor.—*Surtees.*

July 10.—Part of a ship's bottom was weighed up in the river Tyne, near Bill Point, the keel of which measured upwards of 70 feet. It appeared quite fresh, the planks were 18 inches broad, caulked with hair, and overlapped each other. It was supposed to have been one of the ships sunk when the Spaniards attempted to invade England in 1588.—*Local Papers.*

July 15.—The passage over Tyne Bridge, at Newcastle, was stopped on account of bishop Trevor repairing an arch at the south end, which had formerly been used as a draw-bridge. Beams of timber had been laid across covered with planks and paved. The timbers having failed, it was now repaired with stone, and again opened to the public on the 19th of the same month. On this occasion boats were established at the east end of Hillgate, and the west end of Pipewellgate, for the convenience of passage.—*Ibid.*

July 27.—Captain Reed, of the Diligence, and three men in getting into a ship's boat at the quay side, Newcastle, to cross the water, unhappily were overset, and the captain and the mate of a Scotch ship were drowned.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July.—The largest looking-glass that had ever been seen in England, was placed in the grand drawing-room at Alnwick Castle. The plate itself measured 9 feet 5 inches by 5 feet 7 inches, it was made in France, and cost upwards of £1,000. At the same time was also put up a most beautiful and elegant chandelier of eighteen branches.—*Ibid.*

August 6.—About nine o'clock at night, as Miss Margaret Banson, sister to Mr. Banson, writing master to the Free Grammar-school in Newcastle, was returning in a post-chaise from Durham, she was robbed of half-a-guinea on Gateshead Fell, by a single highwayman. When the highwayman attacked Miss Banson in the chaise, after ordering the driver to stop on pain of death, he presented a pistol, and demanded her money ; on which, the surprise getting the better of her fears, she altercationed with him, and told him she had none worth

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his while ; that she had only been at Durham on business, and had but half-a-guinea and some halfpence left ; he took the half guinea and returned the rest ; he then demanded a watch, and she had some difficulty to convince him she had not one with her ; he had a great tremor upon him all the while, was but badly mounted, and without boots or great coat. When Miss Banson had come forward about a mile, she met the postman carrying the mail from Newcastle to Durham, and advised him to return or take a guard, telling him he would certainly be robbed ; but he would not be advised, he went on, and at the turnpike gate asked if he could have a pistol, but could not get one to his mind. A little after he had left the gate, he was joined by a man, as above described, whom he took to be a countryman going from market, and told him what had happened, that a highwayman was upon the road, &c., and that he could not get a pistol to defend himself. They rode on together about two miles, when his companion told him in a soft manner, he must have his bags, which the postman took at first only as a joke ; he then presented a pistol, and obliged the postman to alight, take the mail off, and throw it on before him ; after which, he ordered the postman to ride forward, declaring if he looked back, he would blow his brains out. The next day a person who called himself Robert Hazlitt, and said he was lately clerk to Mr. Samuel Bamford, of Philpot-lane, London, was taken up in Newcastle, on suspicion of being the highwayman that committed the said robberies. He had a young woman along with him. Upon his examination, he confessed that he robbed the lady in the chaise, but declared that he had an accomplice who robbed the postman of the mail, and brought it to him in an adjoining quarry, where they opened it and divided the contents, after which he had not seen him. Many of the letters and bills that were in the mail were found in a chest, which he and the young woman said belonged to her. He was committed to Durham gaol. August 16th, the trial of Robert Hazlitt, otherwise William Hudson, for robbing the above lady, came on at Durham, and on the jury retiring for a few minutes, they returned, finding the prisoner guilty. After which he was arraigned and tried for robbing the Newcastle mail, and upon the clearest evidence he was likewise found guilty. When asked if he had any thing to say in his defence, he replied " he did not rob the mail, that it was an accomplice, one Hewitt, of London, who committed that robbery." Having impeached this person the week before, notice was sent to sir John Fielding thereof, who got the man apprehended, but upon examination, it was found that he had not been from town at the time. The judge believed Hazlitt to be the same person who robbed his lordship, near London, in the preceding June. Hazlitt

came down from London by sea only a day or two before, and had hired a horse at Shields, on which he committed the robberies. After his condemnation, he sent a £20. bank note, and a bill at sight of £12. or £14. to the judge, which he had secreted in his coat sleeve, and were all that were wanting of what had been in the mail: he also told them that the bags and letters were in a corn field, all of which were found there. September 18th, Hazlitt was executed near Durham, and after hanging about two hours and a half, his body was cut down and carried from thence in a cart to a gibbet twenty-five feet high, erected about three miles from Newcastle on the east side of the road, leading over Gateshead Fell to Durham, near the place where the robberies were committed, and there hung in chains. A large pool of water, by the side of which the gibbet was erected, was long afterwards known by the name of Hazlitt's pond. On coming out of gaol on the morning of his execution, he looked earnestly at the cart, and said, "this indeed is terrible! but as my life has been injurious, I hope that my death will be useful to mankind." Soon after he was hung in chains, a person advanced in years, was observed several days to go and kneel before the gibbet, where he remained a considerable time, regardless of the wet weather. The last day in particular he prostrated himself on his bare knees for upwards of an hour, and became so enfeebled that he could not rise till some people gave him assistance; after which he drew out of his pocket a hat-band, and putting it on, said he then was easy, and took his leave of the melancholy spectacle before him. It was thought that this person was his father. Hazlitt's correspondence, subsequent to his trial, was published in the "*Weekly Miscellany*."—*Local Papers, &c.*

1770 (Aug. 18).—At night, a tradesman in the Side, Newcastle, walking down the Groat-market, about ten o'clock, was saluted with a tap on the shoulder by a man, who immediately secured one of his arms behind him with some sort of machine, as he apprehended, made for the purpose, and at the same time clapped a sticking plaster over his mouth; so that he neither could make any effectual resistance nor call out for help; and in this condition he was dragged by the fellow through Denton-chare, Westgate-street, the Postern, and by the Forth, as far as the houses at the entrance into the Maiden's-walk, when luckily meeting with three men, who perceived his distress, the rascal thought proper to leave his prisoner at liberty.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September.—As some labourers were casting a level in Pelaw-bogs, near Chester-le-street, they found the bones of a human body about four feet below the surface of the ground. It was supposed to have been the body of some person who had been murdered.—*Local Rec.*

October 17.—The first weekly market was held this day (Wednes

day) at South Shields, to be holden there every Wednesday. The dean and chapter at the same time ordered that two fairs should be held annually. The first on the 24th of June, 1771, and the second on the 1st of September, and on the same days in every succeeding year.—*Local Papers.*



MARKET PLACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

1770 (Nov 6).—A block, or plate of parting, extracted from sundry matters, was tested off at Mr. Cox's refinery at Bill Quay, on the river Tyne, which contained of fine gold and silver 667lbs. 1oz. 15dwts., or 8005oz. 15dwts. troy, or 1000 merks 5oz. 15dwts. Its intrinsic value was £3702. 13s. 4½d. Its solid thickness was 4½ inches, exclusive of its rising or springing into imaginary devices from its fineness. Its length was 3 feet, breadth 2 feet 2 inches, and circumference 8 feet 2 inches. No plate of its magnitude, weight, or value, had ever before been tested in this kingdom, or as it was supposed, in any other part of the world. At the request of Mr. Cox's friends, it was exhibited previous to being sent off to London, at Mr. Pryor's (assay master) workhouse in the Side, Newcastle, each person paying one shilling for the benefit of the Infirmary. This exhibition produced £8. 8s., which was paid into the hands of the treasurer of that charity, January 3rd, 1771.—*Ibid.*

November. 8.—There was a most violent storm of rain which swelled the rivers to an alarming degree. The river Wear at Sunderland bridge, near Durham, rose to the height of three stories in the house of Mr. Mitchell, innkeeper, which compelled the family to take

to the upper stories. He had several swine which got upon a coal heap, where they stood most part of the day, but were at last taken away by the flood and lost. Several goats came down the river and were drowned. A field of turnips near Shincliffe, valued at £100. and a field of corn at Wolsingham, valued at £150. were entirely destroyed. A boat plied for some time at the foot of Elvet, in the city of Durham, in which place several cellars were overflowed and great damage done. The river Tyne rose 12 feet above neap tide. At Alnwick, the river rose to an unprecedented degree, so that part of the dam above bridge gave way, together with the foundations of the mills. One of the people employed in recovering what could be come at in the loft above them, saved himself by getting into a window in the gable when the mills fell down, this being the only part that stood, and if the water had not got passage, the houses adjoining must have been swept away. The other mills, called the new mills, had their dam heads carried away. The end of the bridge next to the town was considerably shrunk, owing to the bank having been so much washed away. December 15th part of the south arch fell into the river, leaving the others in a tottering condition. Many tall trees were rooted out by the strength of the current.—*Local Papers.*

1770 (Nov. 20).—Died, in St. John's poor-house, Newcastle, Mary Batty, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

December.—In sinking the floor of the cellar at Bamborough castle, a curious draw-well was accidentally discovered. Its depth was 145 feet all cut through the solid rock, of which 75 feet was hard whinstone.—*Grose.*

December 31.—Died, at his house in Gateshead, Mr. William Sedgewick, a gentleman well known in the chemical world, for his many valuable inventions, and particularly for that of dissolving the stone in the bladder.—*Local Papers.*

This year, died at Great Bavington, in Northumberland, Mrs. Eleanor Lawson, widow, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

The water reservoir on the Town-moor, Newcastle, was this year made, and one hundred fire plugs ordered to be placed, in the event of fire.—*Brand.*

This year, in digging for a cellar on Hyde Hill, Berwick, the clay was found intimately mixed with quick-silver, a piece of it the size of an egg, produced a tea-spoon full. The place where it was found was much built upon, which prevented further search.—*Fuller.*

A school for girls was, about this year, founded in Sunderland, in consequence of a bequest of a Mrs. Dennison.—*Surttees.*

The chapel, at Eshe, in the county of Durham, was this year almost entirely rebuilt. It consists of a long narrow nave and chancel

of equal height and breadth, and of a south porch which opens under a low pointed arch. This portion alone is perhaps part of the old chapel, and here, when Mr. Hutchinson wrote, lay a fine recumbent effigy in stone, supposed to belong to the family of De Eshe. This is now destroyed or removed.—*Surtees*.

1770.—A young woodcock was taken in a nest near Prestwick Carr, and was shewn at Newcastle as a great curiosity. The old ones were seen, but escaped.—*Gent's Mag.*



The lordship of Hart in the county of Durham, was this year purchased by sir George Pocock, K.B. for £72,000, and it has been alienated recently by his son sir George Pocock, bart. to the late duke of Cleveland. Hart church is a very ancient structure, and remarkable for its numerous sculptures. The subject represented in the margin is sculptured on the exterior of the south wall of the chancel, and has suffered much from the corroding injuries of time. There is no popular tradition connected with it, nor is it known when it was fixed there. Hutchinson merely states it to be

“a figure in armour, cut in relief slaying a dragon, a cross upon the shield.” But the cross is that attributed to St. George, and the “figure in armour” is evidently meant to typify the Saint performing his accustomed feat of slaying the dragon.—*Sir C. Sharp's Col.*

At this time there was living at Sunderland, a man named Robert Haxby, a clock maker, who had a variety of curious clocks, which he frequently exhibited for a trifling sum, giving notice himself by beat of drum, of the time of the intended exhibitions. He was blind, and consequently his ingenuity was considered the more surprising. In 1750, he received a reward of ten guineas, for making the model of a machine, for removing ballast out of the river Wear. He is still recollected by some of the elders of Sunderland. He frequently presented petitions to the Commissioners of that river; amongst their papers, the following occurs:—“That your petitioner proposed to be engineer about thirty years agoe, and Mr. Winfield, he being chairman at the time, told you, that you would never get such another, think on him as littel as you please. I both maid an engin for you then, and at the same time I drew a plan for you, and nobody could say any thing against it; but in my way of thinking, it would have taken up three or fore keels in an hour by the purchase of fore horses—but Rob. Walker put them of that, as he said there was the same

thing making at Newcastle, and when they was done with it they would get it, but I never heard tell that it is maid yet. Now you have had fore or five Engineers, and all to no service, and the pier that you are building now, if you carry in East, or East and be South, it will fling such a tumbling sea in, if the storm came on betwixt North and East, that no ships can ride in the harbour, besides the ballast and rubbish that it will through in, which will chock the harbour up. Gentlemen, it is not only my judgement, but it is the oppenion of the sea-faring men in general, and, Gentlemen, I have the plan now lying by me if you will be pleased to examine it, and look it over, for I don't pretend to medell no more concerning it."

"I am, Gentlemen, your humb. servt. ROBERT HAXBY."

—*Local Rec.*

1771 (Jan. 26).—The ancient market cross, which formerly stood at Hexham, in Northumberland, was removed down to Haydon-bridge, where, on the above day (Saturday), a market was held, when a great many necessaries for the relief of the poor were exposed to sale.—*Newc. Courant.*

February.—Died at Hepple, near Rothbury, Mrs. Grizzle Ross, aged 100 years. She was a native of Scotland, born of noble parents, and had eloped from her husband about forty five years before.—*Local Papers.*

February.—As some men were digging in a quarry at Ayton Banks, on Gateshead Fell, they found the skeleton of a man of very large size, about two feet from the surface of the earth. It appeared to have lain many years.—*Ibid.*

February 28.—Died, in his 78th year of his age, at Hinton, in Northamptonshire, the learned, ingenious, and rev. Richard Grey, D. D.. one of his majesty's justices of the peace for that county, archdeacon of Bedford, commissary of Leicester, prebendary of St. Paul's, rector of Hinton, and of Kimcote, in Leicestershire, chaplain to Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, by whom he was presented to the living of Hinton, in 1718, Dr. Grey was born at Newcastle, the son of a Mr. Grey, barber; his mother's name was Lambert, the sister of Fenwick Lambert, who kept an inn in that town. He had one sister who married Thomas Burdis, esq., barrister and another who married Mr. John White, an eminent printer at Newcastle.—*Local Rec.*

March 3.—The impressed men on board of the Boscawen cutter, lying at Shields, found an opportunity to overpower the watch on deck, and fifteen of them made their escape; the centinel in opposing them lost three of his fingers by the stroke of a cutlass, and an officer was desperately wounded in the head.—*Local Papers.*

April 11.—Some persons found means to conceal themselves in the

house of Mr. Thomas Potts, butcher, at Hepscot, near Morpeth, and when the family were asleep, went into Mr. Robert Potts' lodging-room, and took away his breeches from under his pillow, in the pockets of which were four guineas; they then entered another room, and got a quantity of linen and wearing apparel, but in endeavouring to force open a chest, the noise awoke the hind's wife, who mistaking it to be occasioned by some of the family, asked what they were doing up so late, and no answer being given, she alarmed Mr. Robert Potts, who immediately starting up, found the doors open, and to his amazement, saw the stacks of corn in the yard all on fire, but the villains were then fled; four stacks of oats, three of barley, and one of hay were entirely destroyed, and with great difficulty the dwelling-house, barns, &c., were preserved from the flames.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1771 (April).—Died, at Birdhope-crag, in the parish of Elsdon, Mrs. Margaret Gilroy, aged 106 years.—*Local Papers.*

Mr. William Bell, painter, son of a bookbinder, in Newcastle, had the honour of receiving his majesty's premium of a gold medal, value £20., at the Royal Academy, for the best historical picture. Mr. Bell went to London about the year 1768, and was among the first of those who entered as students in the Royal Academy; and when the gold medal was offered by the council for the best historical picture, he became a candidate, but the prize was obtained by Mr. Low. In 1771, he again became a candidate for the gold medal and obtained it, for the best historical picture, the subject, *Venus soliciting Vulcan to forge armour for her son Æneas*, but his success was owing to the following circumstance:—Mr. William Hamilton, a student, was also a candidate, but it was discovered that his picture had been touched upon by his master, Mr. Zucchi, for which reason Sir Joshua Reynolds, the president, very properly observed, that it could not be considered as the genuine work of Mr. Hamilton, and that Mr. Bell's picture as the next in merit, was therefore entitled to the prize. The medal, which weighed about four ounces, was most elegantly executed; on one side, the head of George III., inscribed "Georgius 3. D. G. Mag. Brit. Fr. & Hib. Rex.—T. Pingo. f." Reverse, Minerva directing a youth to the Temple of Fame. "Haud facilem esse viam volvit." Underneath, "R. Ac. instituted 1768." Engraved on the edge, "To William Bell, for the best historical picture, 1771." Mr. Bell was much patronized by Sir John Delaval, (afterwards Lord Delaval), and while he was in London, resided at his lordship's house; and in 1775, he exhibited two views of Seaton Delaval, his patron's seat in Northumberland. At Seaton Delaval were several whole length portraits of his lordship's family, which were painted by Mr. Bell. After he left his lordship, he resided at his native town, where

he subsisted by painting portraits. He died about the year 1800, aged 60 years.—*Local Rec.*

1771 (May 3).—Died, at Crookham, in Northumberland, aged 90, Mrs. Dorothy Armstrong, sister to General Forster (who served in that capacity under the pretender in 1715), a lady of great knowledge, and of amazing activity and fortitude in her youth. When her brother was imprisoned at London, she was permitted to see him, and having procured an impression of the key of his prison door upon a piece of clay, got a key made by it at Newcastle, with which she afterwards returned, and succeeded in setting the general at liberty, dressed in her own clothes. This anecdote, Mrs. Armstrong and her friends often acknowledged as a fact.—*Local Papers.*

June 15.—The statue of king Charles II., which had stood for many years over the Magazine Gate, at the north end of Tyne bridge, Newcastle, having been taken down (the gate being also removed to render the entrance into the town more open), was, on this day, placed in a niche, made for that purpose, in front of the Exchange, facing the Sandhill. This circumstance so irritated an inveterate enemy to the Stuart race, and fiery zealot of the house of Brunswick, that, on the 18th, a most ill-natured Pasquinade* was found posted upon a door immediately under the statue. When the Exchange had its north front modernized, the



statue was again taken down, and now stands at the foot of the stairs leading to the Guildhall. This fine figure, which is in Roman costume, was placed over the south front of the Magazine Gate, on the restoration of Charles II., with this motto, "*Adventus Regis solamen Gregis*," i. e. "The coming of the king is the comfort of his people."—*Local Rec.*

July 8.—John Egerton, bishop of Lichfield, was translated to Durham. On the 3rd of September, he made his public entry into the diocese, where he soon became deservedly popular with all ranks. Nor is it too much to say that of the many noble and generous prelates who have held the see of Durham, none ever exercised his

* Written by John Rotheram, M. D., of Newcastle.

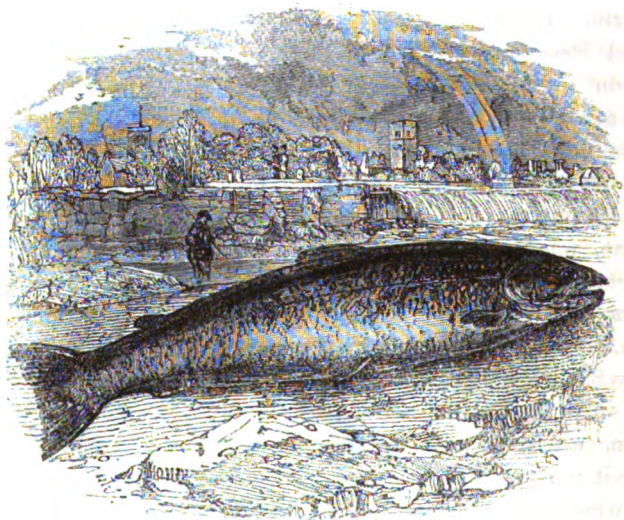
palatine privileges with more liberal discretion, or passed through his high office with less blame or envy, than bishop Egerton. After presiding at Durham seventeen years, he died in London on the 18th of January, 1787.—*Surtees*.

1771 (July 8).—In the evening a fire broke out at Lintzgarth, in the parish of Stanhope, which, in a short time, reduced to ashes several dwelling-houses and out-houses, belonging to sir Walter Blackett, bart., and Mr. Hutchinson. The wind being high, little or nothing could be saved of the tenant's furniture.—*Local Papers*.

Same day, the keelmen, on the river Tyne, after a stop of some weeks, went to work again; to effect which, Mr. Alderman Mosley exerted himself in a very praise-worthy manner, by going down the river himself in different keels, time after time, till he got them all to work, no one attempting to insult him, though the keels had not previously been suffered to pass with such men as were willing to work. The grievance complained of by the keelmen, was the erection of some new staiths near Shields, the owners thereby saving the keel dues.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 10.—The new theatre, in the city of Durham, was opened with "*The West Indian*," and other entertainments.—*Ibid.*

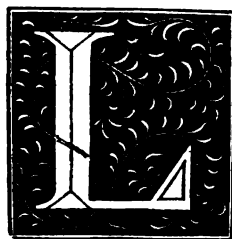
July 15.—Upwards of 4000 salmon were exposed for sale in Newcastle fish-market, which sold for about a penny farthing per pound, 107 salmon were caught that morning at one fishery above Tyne bridge.—*Local Papers*.



SALMON,—FYWELL IN THE DISTANCE.

Drawn by Wm. Harvey—Engraved by John Jackson—the Fish by Whimper.

CHAPTER IX.

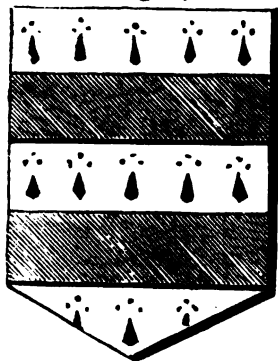


LARGE numbers of the inhabitants of Newcastle assembled on the Sandhill, on the 20th of July, 1771, to witness the punishment of Christian Horsley, who, having been convicted at the previous quarter sessions for that town, of obtaining goods on false pretences, was sentenced to stand in the pillory from 12 o'clock to one o'clock, on the above day. At the quarter sessions held at Alnwick, in the following October, this woman received sentence of transportation for a similar offence.—*Local Papers.*

July 21.—Notice was given that there would be no service in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, on this day (Sunday), as a part of the west end had been taken down, and was then rebuilding.—*Ibid.*

During the fair held at Alnwick, on Friday the 29th of July, 1771, Mr. James, an attorney of Morpeth, having been in company where he had drank too freely, went out amongst the crowd, to buy some ginger-bread, &c., a constable, named Bolam, who had been placed to keep order, thinking that he made too free with the people, reprimanded him for it, whereupon Mr. James stabbed him in the breast with the knife he had in his hand cutting the ginger-bread. The man stood a few minutes, then dropped, and after languishing about an hour, he died. Coroner's verdict, wilful murder. Mr. James was in consequence committed to Morpeth gaol. Another account says, Mr. James was distributing ginger-bread, and had taken a knife out of his pocket to cut it with, but the person whose ginger-bread he was giving away, not knowing Mr. James, had words with him, and called for a constable, when Bolam came to him and suffered as above. At the Northumberland assizes in 1772, Mr. James was acquitted of the murder, but found guilty of manslaughter.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1771 (Aug. 7).—Died suddenly, in London, in the 48th year of his



age, sir Francis Blake Delaval, K. B., August 22nd, his remains arrived at Newcastle in grand funeral pomp, and were laid in state that evening at Mr. Nelson's, Black Bull inn, surrounded with the ensigns of the order of the Bath, banners, escutcheons, &c. So eager were all classes to obtain a view of this ceremonial, that in the rush, a girl had her leg broken, a gentleman lost his watch, many people had their pockets picked, their clothes torn off,

and themselves otherwise much injured. The remains next day proceeded on their route to Seaton Delaval, to be interred in the family vault.—*Local Papers.*

August 10.—Herrings were sold in Newcastle at eighteen a penny; great quantities of salmon were also brought to market which sold for a penny, and three farthings per pound.—*Gillespy's Col.*

August 18.—As a servant of sir John Hussey Delaval, bart., was coming to Newcastle, from Seaton Delaval, his horse took fright at the Barras Bridge, and running along Sandyford-stone Lane, on coming to the bridge, where some people attempted to stop him, he sprang over the battlement to the bottom of the dean, which was upwards of forty-two feet deep; in the fall the man lost his seat, but luckily he alighted between two very large stones that lay near each other; and was thus prevented receiving any injury from the horse which fell directly over him. Though much bruised, the man was able to ride home the same evening; the horse was afterwards shot, being so much injured, that there were no hopes of his recovery.—*Gillespy's Col.*

August 22.—His royal highness the duke of Cumberland and suite arrived at Alnwick castle, where, as he entered the castle gates, he was greeted with a salute of 21 guns, and every other mark of respect. On Sunday, the 25th, his royal highness, accompanied by their graces the duke and duchess of Northumberland, earl Percy, and lord Algonon Percy, attended divine service at Alnwick church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Dr. Percy. On their return to the castle, his royal highness received the compliments of the mayor and corporation of Newcastle, attended by their members, sir Walter Blackett, bart., and Matthew Ridley, esq., and of the mayor and corporation of Berwick, attended by their representative, sir John Hussey Delaval, bart., who, together with their respective recorders, town clerks, &c., were presented to his royal highness, and

had the honour of kissing his hand, as had many other gentlemen of the county, attended by Thomas Charles Bigge, esq., high sheriff of Northumberland. They afterwards all dined at the castle, where the magnificence and hospitality displayed, gave a striking picture of the state and splendour of our ancient barons. On the 27th, his royal highness, attended by their graces the duke and duchess of Northumberland, earl Percy, lord Algernon Percy, sir John Hussey Delaval, and several of the principal gentlemen of Northumberland, whose equipages and cavalcade extended half a mile, visited Berwick. When the party reached Berwick bridge, twenty-one guns were fired, and all the military honours due to a prince were paid to his royal highness, who entered the town amidst the acclamations of many thousands of people of all ranks; all the windows in the streets through which he had to pass were filled with spectators, who manifested their loyalty on this occasion. When his royal highness alighted from his carriage, the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, presented him with a most loyal and dutiful address, they also begged him to accept of the freedom of the corporation, to which he made a most gracious reply. After dining with the mayor and corporation, his royal highness attended a very elegant assembly which was given by the duke and duchess of Northumberland;* when the ball was over, three-hundred ladies and gentlemen had the honour to sup with his royal highness, at an entertainment, also given by the duke of Northumberland. Every window in the town was illuminated. The next morning his royal highness returned to Alnwick, and, accompanied by sir John Hussey Delaval, and colonel Deacon, groom of his bed-chamber, passed through Morpeth to Seaton Delaval. On the 30th, his royal highness arrived in Newcastle, where public honours were paid him. Twenty-one guns were fired on his entrance at Newgate,† where the soldiers were drawn up, and also on the Sandhill. The bells were rung, and at the Mansion-house, the right worshipful the mayor, the aldermen, &c., with the regalia, received their royal guest, where he was presented with the freedom of the corporation in a gold box. A most sumptuous dinner was provided, and the company invited was numerous and brilliant. In the evening there was a grand assembly,‡ the splendour of which exceeded every thing before seen in that town. On Saturday, the 31st, at noon, his royal high-

* His royal highness chose for his partner, the then celebrated beauty, Miss Johnson; of Hilton.

† One of the cannons burst in firing, by which William Reed, a sailor, confined for being concerned in a riot, lost his life, and a man next him was much hurt.

‡ The ball was opened by his royal highness and Mrs. Mayoress (Aubone Surtees, esq., being then mayor); he also danced with Miss Surtees, Miss Allgood, Miss Carr, &c., &c.

ness returned to Seaton Delaval, from whence, on the Monday, he passed through Newcastle, when he presented the prisoners in Newgate with ten guineas.—*Local Papers*.

1771 (August).—A conspiracy was entered into by two deserters in the gaol, at Newcastle, to knock down the turnkey, and make their escape; but on their acquainting Tomlinson who was then under sentence of death, he refused to assist; at the same time expressing his abhorrence of their intention, and immediately made the gaoler acquainted therewith. This was the second occasion on which this poor man had aided the gaoler, and been the means in all probability of preventing murder after his condemnation.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 8.—The remains of sir Robert Bewick, knight, were interred in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle. The pall was supported by sir Thomas Clavering, bart., Thomas Charles Bigge, Matthew Ridley, William Fenwick, Thomas Riddle, John Simpson, Edward Collingwood and Henry Askew, esquires.—*Ibid.*

September 13.—General Paoli and the Polish ambassador arrived at Alnwick castle, from Scotland, where they were most elegantly entertained by the Duke of Northumberland. The ambassador passed through Newcastle on the 15th, and the General arrived in that town on the 16th, and was attended by William Charlton, esq., one of his grace's auditors, to Tynemouth, and the coal works in that neighbourhood; after which the general set out for the south.—*Ibid.*

September 16.—At night, a boy about 12 years of age, the son of William Seymour, chairman, of Newcastle, was found lying in the Spital field, speechless, with a fracture in his skull, and was taken to the Infirmary. He had been plucking hairs from the tail of a horse grazing there, and was struck by the beast, as he related when he recovered.—*Ibid.*

September 19.—A new colliery for land sale was won at Prestwick, belonging to Mr. Jonathan Thompson, on which occasion, the country people assembled at Ponteland, and great rejoicings were made.—*Ibid.*

September.—Died at Newcastle, William Hope, gardener, aged 76, who for the last forty years of his life, lived in a hot-house in his garden, and never lay in a bed the whole time, nor ever associated with any body. The reason of his retired life was said to have been occasioned by a disappointment in love.—*Ibid.*

October 21.—Died, after a lingering illness, in the 76th year of his age, the rev. Edward Aitkin, who had been minister to the congregation of Protestant Dissenters, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, thirty-nine years. He founded the first charity-school amongst dissenters in that town, which, under his care and protection, was

a relief to many poor families, and of great public benefit.—*Local Papers.*

1771 (Oct. 25).—At Warkworth, the house of Mr. Tyzack was broke into, by some villains who got in at the kitchen window, without alarming the house. A servant girl lay in a closet bed, which they secured by fastening the door. The noise awoke Mr. Tyzack, who looking out at the window, saw one of the villains lying in at that below; on which he called on his boy, to bring him his loaded pistols, but unfortunately they had been secured by the thieves, who snapped them at Mr. Tyzack, but luckily missed fire. Nothing was left now but to exert his courage, which he did with such effect, that he struck a panic on the robbers, who immediately fled, with a trifling booty.—*Gillespy's Col.*

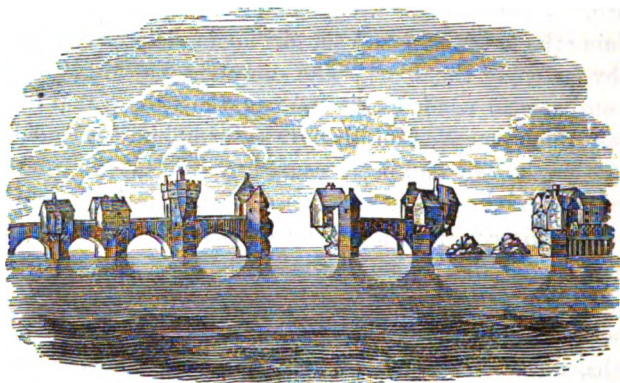
October.—Three children belonging to a gentleman near Washington staiths, diverting themselves in a stable, got into the oat chest, and by accident, the lid falling down, they were confined for some hours, till the servant went to take out a feed of corn, when they were discovered, two of them nearly dead, and the other almost speechless with crying, but proper assistance being administered they recovered.—*Ibid.*

October.—A large seal was shot not far from the King's Meadows, Newcastle. These curious animals are seldom seen in the Tyne, but in the warm summer months they often leave the sea to sleep upon the rocks along the coast.—*Mackenzie.*

October.—This month, John Robinson, otherwise William Brown, who had been committed to Durham gaol, for horse stealing, and supposed from his archness and competency of villainy, to be one of the descendants of sir William Brown, (once so well known in this country) was, though the vigilance of the keeper, discovered in the act of preparing for his escape, which he had nearly effected by cutting through the grates of the windows and his fetters.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 17.—About two o'clock in the morning of this day (Sunday), the inhabitants of Newcastle were alarmed with the most dreadful inundation that ever befel that part of the country; the water of the Tyne rising six feet higher than the remarkable fresh in December, 1763. The first dawn of day discovered a scene of horror and devastation, too dreadful for words to express, or humanity to behold, without shuddering. All the cellars, warehouses, shops, and lower apartments of the dwelling houses, from the west end of the Close to near Ouseburn, were totally under water. The flood was so rapid and sudden, that it was with the greatest difficulty the inhabitants, who slept in the lower parts of their houses, escaped with their lives. The middle arch of Tyne bridge, and two other arches

near to Gateshead, were carried away, and seven houses, with shops standing thereon, together with some of the inhabitants, overwhelmed in immediate destruction.



RUINS OF TYNE BRIDGE, FROM THE WEST.

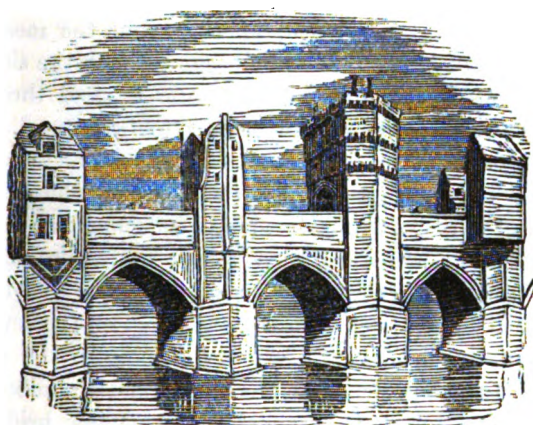
Mr. Fiddas, who lived on the north end of the bridge, with his wife and maid-servant, having made their escape to Gateshead, the girl, recollecting a bundle which she had left behind, begged of her master she might go back for it, and that he would be so kind as to accompany her; which request, after some hesitation, he complied with, and his wife stood watching for their return; but in a moment after their separation, the arch under them gave way, when they vanished from her view, and she never saw them more. Mr. Fiddas and his maid, Ann Tinkler,* Mr. Christopher Byerley† and his son, together with an apprentice to Mr. James, were the persons who perished by the falling of these arches; and the houses and shops which fell into the river that morning were occupied by Mr. Patten, mercer; Mr. W. Hills, shoemaker; Mr. Byerley, hardwareman; Mrs. Haswell, milliner; Ann Tinkler, dealer in stuffs and checks; Mr. Edward Wilson, and John Sharp, shoemakers; Mr. Walton, flax-merchant; and Mr. John James, cheesemonger. Four other houses with shops likewise fell from the bridge the next day into the river, two of which belonged to Mr. Akenhead, and the others to Mr. Fawcett; and, in a little time after, the whole range of buildings, from near the blue stone on the bridge (the boundary between Newcastle and Durham), unto Gateshead, met with the same fate. Mr. Patten's house was carried‡

* Ann Tinkler's body was not found until July, 1772.

† May 5th, 1772, Mr. Byerley's body was taken up out of the ruins of Tyne Bridge, and next day interred in Gateshead church.

‡ Dec. 14, 1771, died, Mrs. Mabane, wife of Mr. Mabane, and also the maid servant of Mr. Patten, both tradesmen on Tyne Bridge. Their deaths were occasioned by the fright they received during the flood, from which they never recovered.

wholly as far as Jarrow Slake, about eight miles down the river, where it was stopped, but upon examining the inside, nothing was left in it but a dog and a cat, both alive. Mr. Peter Weatherley,† a shoemaker, who, with his family, lived upon Tyne bridge at the time the arches fell down, experienced a remarkable preservation. Between three and four that morning, he was suddenly awakened by



PART OF THE EAST SIDE OF TYNE BRIDGE.—1739.

the prodigious noise of the flood, and on opening a window, observed Mr. and Mrs. Fiddas, with their two children, and their maid, passing along the bridge; on shutting the window again, he was about repairing to rest, when, all on a sudden, the arch immediately adjoining his house on the north side rushed down. This instantly drew his attention to the family's safety; and, raising them up, he opened the door, when he beheld the destructive torrent rolling almost immediately beneath him. He then, with difficulty, quitted the house, and at the utmost hazard of his life (the pavement breaking and tumbling beneath his feet into the water), assisted his wife, two young children, and a servant girl to follow him. As all access to the north was cut off by the falling of the above arch, they hastened toward the south end, but had not gone far until they perceived themselves involved in still greater difficulty and danger, two other arches having likewise fallen at that part. In this distressful situation they remained from four till ten o'clock in the morning, perishing with cold, and affording a most melancholy spectacle to the inhabitants on each side of the water. Their station was upon a surface about six feet square, all other parts of the arch which supported them

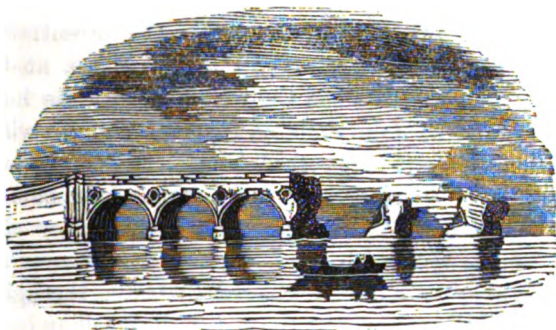
† Mr. Weatherley died at his house, in the White Hart yard, Old Flesh Market, January 12th, 1826.

appeared terribly rent, and threatened each moment to bury them in the flood. None durst to attempt their relief by boats, and no other human means seemed available. However, a bricklayer, in Gateshead, named GEORGE WOODWARD, concerted a measure for their deliverance, and boldly ventured alone to execute it. A range of shops then standing on the east side of the bridge, supported only by beams of timber, laid from pier to pier, and extending from Gateshead to the place where the distressed people stood, affording him the means of preserving their lives. He broke a large hole through the side of every shop all the way to the arch where they were, and through these openings brought the whole family safe into Gateshead. The children, when rescued, were nearly exhausted with cold. The water was supposed to be at its height about seven o'clock in the morning, and to have risen upwards of twelve feet above high water-mark, in spring tides. The Sandhill was a capacious flood; and boats plied thereon some hours. In some parts it was six feet deep. All the timber, merchants' goods, &c., lying upon the quay, and on the several shores in the neighbourhood, were entirely swept away in the current, as were most of the ships lying at the quay, and a number of keels, boats, and other small craft, both above and below bridge, carried down the rapid current, and scattered and stranded on each side of the river to Shields, or otherwise borne onward to the sea, and there sunk or wrecked along the coast. Three sloops and a brig were driven upon the quay, and left there, when the flood abated; they furrowed up the pavement and broke down a great part of the quay. But Newcastle did not alone suffer by the terrible violence of this flood, scarce a village or cottage house from Tynehead in Alston-moor, to Shields, escaped its destructive fury. The bridges at Alston, Ridley-hall, Haydon, Chollerford, and Hexham, were all carried away by the torrent, many people were drowned; a prodigious quantity of horses, black cattle, sheep and other animals, perished. The wooden-bridge at Allendale was swept away entire, and was discovered the next day lying across a lane near Newbrough, as exactly as if fixed there by human means.

At Haydon bridge it overflowed the whole town, which obliged the men, with women and children on their backs, to wade up to their necks to the church where they found sanctuary; when their necessities were kindly attended to by the rev. Mr. Harrison.

Several houses and estates suffered considerably in the neighbourhood of Hexham, though happily no lives were lost there. A man at the West Boat, saved himself and family by breaking through the thatch of his house, on the top of which they were obliged to continue many hours in a half naked condition. The estates of Mr. Dunn,

with his corn stacks, suffered greatly; and in a part of the Spital, belonging to Mr. Wastell, a large square stone was discovered, seemingly the base of a pedestal or cross. The farms of Mr. Robert Bell and Mr. Harbottle, with their cattle, were greatly injured, as were some other grounds belonging to sir Walter Blackett; the water-course to the mills was entirely diverted. The beautiful bridge at Hexham, consisting of seven arches, and which had only been finished



HEXHAM BRIDGE, AFTER THE FLOOD.

the year before, with great rejoicings, was more than half demolished during the night. An inscription on a stone near Warden, informs the passenger, that the water rose 13 feet above its level at that place.

The only bridge upon the river Tyne which was left standing, was that at Corbridge, which was built in 1674, on the Roman foundation. The water at this place was so tremendous, that some persons late in the night stood upon the bridge and washed their hands in the rolling river. The preservation of this bridge was attributed to its Roman foundation, and a vast quantity of water having passed it at its south end, where the ground is low.

The inhabitants of Bywell were amongst the most unhappy sufferers in this melancholy catastrophe. The whole village was under water; and in the dining room, and other rooms on the first floor of Mr. Fenwick's house, it was eight feet deep. The farmers there lost all their corn and hay stacks, cows, &c. All the garden walls belonging to Mr. Fenwick, were broken down, and the gardens entirely destroyed. A delay of five minutes would have effected destruction to his whole stud, together with four servants. Most of the valuable horses were got into the inside of the Black church, and saved themselves by holding by the tops of the pews, which were allowed to continue in their gawned state for several years after the flood; a mare belonging to Mr. Elliott, father-in-law to Mr. Thomas Bewick, who was on a visit to Bywell at the time, was saved in the same church by getting upon the altar-table. About ten houses were swept away,

and six persons perished. Several lives were saved miraculously by twigs, ropes, trees, &c., and many people were taken out of their houses through the roofs. The shrieks of woman and of children frantic with all the agonies of despair, will better be conceived than described. The White church yard wall was entirely destroyed, and a great part of the church-yard washed away. The Black church walls were likewise very much ruined, and the parish accounts destroyed. Dead bodies and coffins were torn out of the church-yard, and the living and the dead promiscuously clashed in the torrent.

The tragical fate of the persons in the boat-house, at Ovingham, was truly heart-rending. When the water entered the house, there were ten persons in it, John Johnson the boatman, his wife and two children, his mother, and his brother, his man and maid-servants, with a young man from Prudhoe, and a labouring man named George Simpson; on perceiving the danger they were in, they all went up stairs, and as the water advanced they ascended nearer the roof of the house, till at last they were obliged to break through the wall into the stable which was built at the end of the dwelling-house, thinking it a place of greater safety, both by its strength and situation, and made themselves a temporary place to sit on, by putting a deal and a ladder betwixt the binding baulks, and there remained till one o'clock in the morning. At which time, perceiving the dwelling-house gone, and the stable beginning to give way, they got upon the top of the stable, when three of them climbed up to the chimney top, viz. George Simpson, the young man from Prudhoe, and the boatman's brother; the boatman, his wife, his mother, his two children, and the man and maid servants remained as before; when, in an instant, the building fell, and they were all swept away by the torrent, and carried down with the thatch, &c., for near three hundred yards into a wood, where the boatman, his brother, and maid servant, got upon trees, and continued in that situation ten hours before they could be relieved, and the maid died soon after she got to land. The unhappy husband, when he seized the tree with one hand, caught his wife with the other, and, after holding her a few minutes, she was wrested from him in fifteen and a half feet depth of water, and in the midst of a rapid current. The wretched husband and his brother were the only survivors of the ten persons to relate the sad catastrophe.

The whole workings of Wylam colliery, containing 300 acres, were completely inundated. There were 1,728,000 hogsheads of water in the several seams of coal.

At Team, near Swalwell, people were taken out of the tops of their houses; a boat was driven against a house almost under water, which the people immediately laid hold of, and thereby saved the

whole family, and some others who would have certainly perished ; and in another, an old man and his wife were found hanging by the spars of the roof, the water being so high.

By the violence of the flood, several ships were driven from their moorings at Shields, upon the Herd Sand, some of which were lost. A boy belonging to one of these ships continued alone upon the main-top-mast-head from Sunday morning to Monday morning, none daring to venture sooner to his assistance, when he was taken off alive. A woman with a child in her arms was found drowned on Jarrow Slake ; and a vessel at sea, off Shields, took up a wooden cradle with a child in it, which was alive and well.

The flood in the river Wear, was nearly as violent as that in the river Tyne ; Frosterley, Wolsingham, and Witton bridges, were all destroyed. The water at Durham was eight feet ten inches higher than ever known before ; two houses at the end of Framwellgate bridge, were entirely swept away ; one of the abbey mills, and the bridge belonging to the dean and chapter were demolished, as were four arches of Elvet bridge, and all the lower buildings of the city, garden walls, &c., were either destroyed or left in a ruinous condition. Mrs. Morgan's house, and Mr. Wilkinson's coach-house, both in Elvet, were driven down by the water, but the houses behind prevented them being carried off. Many other houses were greatly damaged ; several horses, cows, &c., were drowned in the stables, byers, &c. Happily no lives were lost there, though a young woman fell into the water, by the bank giving way, and was carried 700 yards down the river, yet was saved by the assistance of her fellow servant. The whole of the low grounds near Finchale abbey were wholly under water, and two of the servants of Mr. Carr of Cocken, perished in crossing the river at Cockenford.*

The water at Chester-le-street extended near 200 yards from north to south, in the street, and did considerable damage to the dwelling-houses and shops there. The mill, with most of the mill-houses and furniture, belonging to John Etherington, near Cocken, were carried away ; as were also all the corn stacks belonging to Mr. Mowbray, at Newbrough, the fishing-lodge, and most of the furniture at Lumley boat-house. The colliers at North Biddick, Chater's-haugh, and Low Lambton, on the Wear, were all filled with water, and upwards of thirty horses in the several workings drowned. Several waggons, with houses, and a great quantity of coals were swept off ; and the fire engines belonging to the two former collieries entirely destroyed.

* The body of one of these, named Jeremiah Jackson, was found in the Wear at Chater's-haugh, January 15th, 1772.

All the low grounds from Chester to Cocken were covered with the dead carcasses of horses, cows, oxen, and sheep, and also with corn and hay stacks, household furniture, and wood of all kinds.

At Sunderland, there was a great destruction among the ships and keels. The cries of the poor boys (few of the men being on board), with the cracking of the ships, was indeed terrible. All the assistance possible was sent by the inhabitants; but the darkness and wetness of the night prevented many from receiving proper help. A great number of keels were driven away, and many men and boys were lost. A part of the pier gave way to the force of the water, and another part was damaged by the ships that drove against it. Eight or nine dead bodies were cast ashore on the Sunday morning in the harbour. Hay stacks and great quantities of household furniture, with a staith, were driven down the Wear into the sea. Thirty-four ships were wrecked at the mouth of that river.

At Stockton, the flood in the river Tees was greater than had ever before been remembered, though not much damage was done, only one warehouse and two or three cellars were under water.

At Yarm, there were fifteen feet of water in the streets. Many people were taken from the tops of houses by means of boats, one in particular, a woman, named Ann Richardson, with a child in her arms, had sat fifteen hours on the top of a house, almost starved to death before she was rescued. The shambles were entirely swept away. Several trades-people were greatly injured, as they only removed their goods about a foot out of the water-mark of the great flood there in February, 1753, which was not so high as this by five feet eight inches. Great damage was done at Croft and at Darlington.

At Barnard-castle, the Tees was so high that the arch on the Yorkshire side of the bridge not being large enough to allow so great a body of water to pass, the battlement was forced down, and the water took its course along the street, drove away the causeway, washed away the soil down to the rock and demolished eight dwelling-houses, most of them of considerable value. Some of the houses were entirely swept away, not one stone being left; others had a small part of their ruins standing, and the bridge end was about four yards higher than the rock, so that persons going into Yorkshire were compelled to descend by a ladder. The water penetrated the cellars occupied by a dyer, who had a few pieces of tammies in the kettle at the time, receiving their last process, when the dyer was obliged to make a precipitate retreat. After the torrent had subsided, the man, in great anxiety for his goods, visited the kettle, when, removing the sand and mud at the top, they were found to have attained a colour

beyond his most sanguine expectations. The articles were sent to the London market, and gave such satisfaction, that orders were forwarded for a further supply of the same shade, but the dyer, not being again assisted by the genius of the river, failed in every attempt to produce it. The Force, a waterfall on the river Tees, 69 feet high,



THE HIGH FORCE.

was, during this flood, most awfully sublime.—*Garret's Account of the Great Floods. Local Papers, &c.*

1771 (Nov. 29).—There was another fall of the bridge at Newcastle, at the south end, and with it went a house and shop belonging to a person named Laybourn, a glover; the next day another fall took place, which brought down six dwelling-houses and shops. The whole range of shops and houses on both sides from the south end of the bridge to the blue stone, the boundary of the county of Durham, was now entirely demolished.—*Ibid.*

December 15.—Died, at Lanchester, in the county of Durham, Alice Browell, aged 109 years.—*Local Papers.*

This year, in a large *cairn*, on Turpin's-hill, near Whitcheater, a stone-chest was found inclosing a small quantity of ashes and burnt bones. In 1795, another of these chests was found in the same *cairn*, it contained two urns and copper coins of Domitian, Antoninus Pius, and Faustina, which were in the possession of Mr. Spearman, of Eachwick-hall. In making a road through an old camp, near this place, several hand mill-stones, a sacrificing knife, and a flint axe, similar to the *Pattoo* of the South Sea islands, were discovered. These were also in the possession of Mr. Spearman.—*Mackenzie.*

Golden square chapel, (Scotch) Berwick-on-Tweed, was opened.

The register of births, baptisms, and marriages, from 1771 to 1837.
—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1772.—A temporary post-office (as it was originally intended to have been), was set up at Gateshead, till Tyne bridge could be rebuilt, but it was afterwards thought expedient to suffer this office to be continued.—*Brand.*

Jan. 17.—As the workmen were clearing away the rubbish of Tyne bridge, the stones were so firmly cemented together, that they were obliged to be separated by mall and hammer, and on separating two stones, they discovered a parchment, with old characters on it very fresh; but on being exposed to the air, the characters disappeared, and the parchment mouldered away. This bridge had been built upon the old Roman foundation, as appeared by several coins and medals of Trajan and other emperors, being discovered in the ruins of the old piers. The annexed is a representation of a coin of the emperor Hadrian, found in the ruins.—*Brand, &c.*



The ancient spoon, here engraved, was also found in one of the piers of the bridge about the same time. The notch in the handle is supposed to have been formed for the purpose of supporting it on the side of a dish or other utensil. It was of silver and about six inches long.—*Archæologia.*

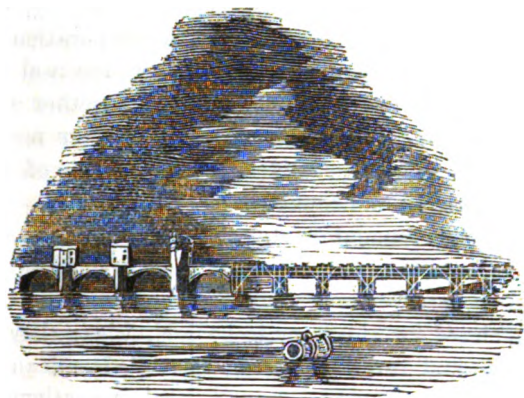


March 10.—Died, at North Shields, Elizabeth Potts, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

May 10.—In the morning, the wind-mill near the turnpike gate on the road leading from Sunderland to Durham, was discovered to be on fire, and before assistance could be had, was entirely consumed; as there had been no fire kept in the mill for some days before, it was supposed to have been wilfully set on fire.—*Gillespy's Col.*

May.—Died, near Backworth, in the parish of Earsdon, Mary Metcalfe, aged 108 years.—*Local Papers.*

1772 (June 10).—Mr. John Stephenson, carpenter, father of the late Mr. David Stephenson, architect, contracted to build a temporary bridge over the Tyne, at Newcastle, in four months, under a great penalty. July 16th, the workmen began to drive the piles, and on October 27th, it was opened, on which occasion the workmen made a procession through the town, preceded by music and colours flying, after which they had an entertainment.—*Brand*.



TEMPORARY BRIDGE.

June 21.—At noon, there was a most terrible shower of rain and hail, accompanied with thunder and lightning, in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. Chimney-mill, on the south edge of the Town-moor, was struck by the lightning, and one of its wands shattered to pieces. The house called Knowhead, in Knaresdale, Northumberland, was set on fire by lightning, and burnt to the ground. A fine young quye was struck dead in a field near Morpeth.—*Local Papers*.

July 6.—As some labourers were digging and repairing Mr. Gregson's ropery at Monkwearmouth, they dug up a silver tankard of £6. value.—*Gillespy's Col.*

August 8.—George Stoker and John Coxon, two boys belonging to Lambton-coliery, were whipped through Chester-le-Street, for breaking into the garden of William Lambton, esq., the 27th of July. what is remarkable the mother of Coxon (for the reward of five pounds) made information of her son and the other boy (Stoker) having robbed the garden; and the father of Stoker was the person who whipped the delinquents through Chester.—*Ibid.*

August 12.—The following uncommon accident happened at the fair on the Cow-hill, Newcastle. A horse of £14. or £15. value, standing and eating the grass immediately behind the heels of another

horse, received so violent a kick on one side of the head, that he instantly dropped down dead.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1772 (August 15).—The assizes for the town and county of Newcastle, were opened by the hon. sir Henry Gould, knight, and the hon. Edward Willis, esq., on account of the demolishing of the bridge by the great flood in November, the usual procession on horseback and in carriages to accompany the high-sheriff, was suspended; and the judges were met by the town sheriff, (Christopher Wilkinson, esq.), with several other gentlemen at the ferry-boat landing, below Gateshead, from whence they were brought in the corporation barge to the Lead-stairs, on the Quayside, where they were received by the high-sheriff for the county (Francis Blake, esq.), together with the right worshipful sir Walter Blackett, mayor; the other magistrates and officers of the corporation, and a great number of the principal gentlemen of the town and county.—*Ibid.*

August 17.—The foundation stone of the new bridge over the river Wear, at Durham, belonging to the dean and chapter, was laid. The free and accepted masons went in procession from their lodge to the place appointed for the stone to be laid, where they were met by the honourable and rev. Spencer Cowper, D. D., dean of Durham, with some of the prebends, and several other gentlemen, when the stone was laid in due form, and a plate with an inscription, deposited under it, after which, the brethren proceeded to the meeting, where they heard an excellent sermon preached by the rev. Mr. Hart, from Micah vi., 8. The bridge was built from the designs of Mr. George Nicholson, architect to the dean and chapter. April the 11th, 1778.—This bridge was opened to the public. It is a commodious structure, the old bridge swept away by the flood in November, 1771, was only for horse and foot passengers.—*Hist. of Dur.*

September.—About the 4th of this month, as a farmer's son at Stapleton near Darlington, was walking in a field, a hare ran against his leg with such violence, as to cut his stocking, and ruffle the skin off his shin; the hare at the same time tumbled backwards with the stroke, and died immediately.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 9.—Died, at the Mushroom glasshouse, near Newcastle, of the small-pox, Mr. Hunt, an eminent preacher amongst the Quakers; his remains were interred in the Quakers' meeting-house in that town: He had arrived there from America (where he left his wife and family) but a very few days before his death.—*Ibid.*

September 10.—The centres were taken out of the arches of the new bridge built over the river Wear, at Wolsingham.—*Local Papers.*

September 12.—The foundation stone of a new bridge over the North Tyne, at Chollerford, was laid.—*Ibid.*

1772 (Sep. 12).—In the evening an outhouse and barn were burnt down at Moesdon, near Morpeth, which were set on fire by lightning. A fine ox was also killed near Netherwitton ; there were no marks on it, save an appearance of hair slightly singed. Several persons who were travelling during the storm, said, they never saw such quick successions of lightning, the atmosphere appearing in almost a continual flame for two hours.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 25.—The river Coquet was higher than ever known, and the damage done thereby no less considerable than the flood itself. It swelled with such rapidity, that all means of conveying anything off the adjacent haughs was rendered impracticable, so that in a little time all the corn thereon that was cut was entirely swept away. Among the sufferers by this inundation Mr. William Donkin, of Great Tossou, was by far the greatest ; he had a field of oats consisting of several hundred sheaves, totally taken off, besides a large quantity of barley and pease. But never was there an instance of greater humanity, displayed, than by the people of Rothbury on this occasion, for no sooner was the alarm given of the above event than they repaired to the bridge, and other convenient places, where they plied (even at the hazard of their lives) in catching the sheaves as they floated past ; one gentleman in particular distinguished himself by the exertion of his influence in assisting at this affecting scene ; nor was their unprecedented kindness unnoticed by Mr. Donkin, for he with a heart full of gratitude, generously bestowed upon them, plenty of good spirits : yet, notwithstanding all their efforts, his loss was very considerable. Happily the bridge was not injured ; and no lives were lost. A hare, which had leaped upon an oat sheaf, was taken down the water sitting thereon.—*Ibid.*

September 26.—In the north and west parts of the county of Northumberland they had very severe rains, which swelled the rivers very high, particularly the Aln, Breamish, and Till ; considerable damage was done by the latter below Wooler, where great quantities of corn were swept away. The new bridge across the Breamish between Whittingham and Wooler, on the high north road, was taken away. Mr. Charlton's Bolting-mill, near Alnwick, with the dam, &c. were also carried away by the rapidity of the flood. In the west several fields of corn were entirely lost ; and the centre frame of the new bridge, just beginning to be built at Haydon Bridge, together with all the boxes, materials and tools of the workmen, were swept away in the current : as was the centre frame of one of the old arches of the bridge at Newcastle, which the workmen had just begun to take down. The Ferry-boat at Haydon Bridge, was also taken away, to the great loss of travellers passing that way.—*Ibid.*

1772 (Oct. 15).—A dreadful fire broke out in Michael Scroggs' warehouse, at Russel's factory (near Newcastle) which burst with such violence, that in a short time, the whole was consumed, together with a large quantity of goods (which were ready for market), and all the utensils for preparing the same. What made this man's case more truly pitiable, was his having sustained considerable loss in the preceding November, by the great inundation.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 31.—From the great fall of rain the Kelso coach which should have reached Newcastle on the Saturday night, did not get in till Monday morning at one o'clock. One of the horses was drowned in crossing the Ford at Mindrum and the passengers were with difficulty taken out of the coach windows with ropes.—*Ibid.*

November 19.—As some people, were crossing the River Tyne, to Haltwhistle market, on horseback, there suddenly sprung up among the horses' feet a large fluid body like the appearance of blood, which ran down the stream, and was observed at some distance. This extraordinary phenomenon occasioned various conjectures in that neighbourhood.—*Ibid.*

November 22.—Mr. Harrison, excise officer at Newbiggin, on his return home to Morpeth, being an old man, happened to lose his way in the dark, and the horse getting into a quagmire, broke the girth, and left him, where he was found the next day dead.—*Ibid.*

November 27.—In the morning, some fishing boats, belonging to Cullercoats, went off to sea, it then being moderate weather, when a sudden gale arose, and the sea coming on very high, the boats were



CULLERCOATS.

obliged to leave their lines, and pulling in for the land one boat was lost, wherein were Thomas Pearson, Andrew Gray and son, and William Donkin, who were unfortunately drowned, when very near the shore. With much difficulty another boat and four men landed about three o'clock in the afternoon in a pitiable condition.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1772.—A charity school was this year founded in South Shields, by the application of £100, bequeathed by Mr. Christopher Maughan, £100. by Mrs. Ann Aubon, of South Shields, and other benefactors. Forty scholars were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, but the funds having been increased by various liberal donations, a good school house has been built, and the original number of scholars augmented.—*Local Rec.*

This year, sir M. W. Ridley, bart., decorated the chancel windows of Stannington church, (which are of the true Gothic taste,) with some curious painted glass finely coloured, of various scriptural designs, and arms of religious houses, supposed to be above five hundred years old.—*Hist. of Northd.*

Elvet moor, near the city of Durham, was this year, divided (400 acres). The dean and chapter reserving sixpence an acre rent, and the mines.—*Surtees.*

About this period, a man was eight days shut up in a coal-pit, in Newton-West-Bank, opposite Ravensheugh, near Morpeth. He had nothing but a little water, which he collected in his shoe, to subsist on. Though faint when dug out, he soon recovered, and lived many years after.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1773 (January).—At this period, Mr. Graham, an ingenious mechanic at Bedlington, had found out what he believed to be the perpetual motion, and had the machine then going in his house.—*Gillespy's Col.*

January 2.—Died at Morpeth, aged 100 years, Mrs. Grace Milbourne, who kept the Nag's Head inn there, near 60 years.—*Ibid.*

January 15.—Died at his house in Westgate street, Newcastle, in the 79th year of his age, Adam Askew, esq., one of the most eminent physicians in the kingdom. On the 19th (Tuesday), his remains were deposited in the family vault in St. John's church, with great solemnity; the pall being supported by sir. Walter Blackett, bart., Matthew Ridley, Christopher Fawcett, Ralph William Grey, Matthew Waters, Edward Collingwood, Gawen Aynsley, and Charles Thomas Bigge, esqrs. By his practice for fifty years in Newcastle, he had acquired an immense fortune, which descended to his son.—*Local Papers.*

January.—A circumstance occurred at Earsdon, Northumberland,

strongly illustrative of the impropriety of sudden inhumation. A Mr. Davison, appearing dead, lay as a corpse two days, when the the funeral was put off until the third day, in consequence of the absence of a relation; in this interval Mr. Davison revived, and in a few days was quite well.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1773 (Jan. 17).—Died at Lanternside, near Rothbury, William Potts, in the 107th year of his age.—*Local Papers.*

January.—During a high wind, the church at Bedlington, which had been newly covered, was entirely unroofed, as were several houses, and many chimnies blown down.—*Hist. of Northd.*

February 7.—Died at Sunderland, Mrs. Wilson, aged 104 years, said to be the oldest person in that place.—*Local Papers.*

February 11.—Some workmen being employed to enlarge the gaol at Durham, in altering the top of the building for that purpose, the portcullis of the gateway, (which was supposed to have been up for above a century,) unexpectedly rushed down, and stopped the communication between Bailey-gate and Sadler-street, till the workmen with saws and axes, cut it in pieces.—(*Local Rec.*) The south front of the building is here represented.



This month, Shields harbour was blocked up by a ridge of sand, so that large ships could not get out to sea.—*Ibid.*

February 24.—A fire broke out in a large new house built by Mr. William Watson, coal-fitter, adjoining the custom-house, in Sunderland, which burnt with such rapidity, that the building with all the household furniture was soon reduced to ashes.—*Local Papers.*

February.—About the end of this month, one Charles Hurst was detected in Newcastle, attempting to utter a number of counterfeit shillings, and carried before the mayor. The account he gave of him self and his connections, afforded some grounds to suspect that he and his brother, Robert Lightfoot Hurst (who came from Birmingham, and had lived at a detached house at Spring Gardens, near South Shields, for about half a year, previously) were the coiners. He was detained for further examination, and a messenger dispatched to a justice of peace for the county of Durham, who immediately issued his warrant, and sent constables to apprehend the brother, and search his house. He had escaped: but several coining tools, a quantity of base money, a piece of solid gold, and some gold filings were found in the house, and secured. Charles Hurst was afterwards re-examined, and made a voluntary discovery: from which it appeared

that John Bacon, of Sunderland, mariner, was concerned with him and his brother, in counterfeiting shillings at the Spring Gardens, and that the brother filed guineas there, which Bacon procured for him. An officer was sent to apprehend Bacon, but he also had fled. His wife, and the wife of Robert Lightfoot Hurst, were both taken. Base coin to the amount of near £50. was found concealed at Spring Gardens, and it was ascertained that the two delinquents, who made their escape, took with them near £50. more; and the prisoner, Charles Hurst, brought with him to Newcastle upwards of £50. part of which he had concealed in a field near Gateshead church. This money was made of copper, and the silver on each piece was not worth more than three half-pence.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1773 (March 2).—The maid servant of Mr. Smith, farmer, near Wallsend, getting up early to wash, and requiring light, incautiously took a bag of gunpowder, and scattered some of it upon the fire, which communicating with the rest, made a terrible explosion, insomuch that it threw a door off its hinges at the foot of the staircase, forced open the door of the lodging room above, and blew off part of the roof. Mr. Smith being awakened by the noise, got up, and found the poor girl lying upon the floor in a most deplorable condition, miserably scorched. The clothes which she had laid out to wash were burnt.—*Ibid.*

March 6.—About two o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the dwelling house of Mr. Barber, bookseller, at Summer-hill, near Newcastle, which consumed the same, and as there had not been any fires in the house for some time, it was strongly suspected to have been set on fire by some person or persons who had previously sent Mr. Barber two threatening letters, demanding him to place money upon his garden wall. A reward of £110. and his majesty's pardon were offered, but without effect.—*Local Papers.*

March 11.—A gentleman, near Widdrington, having killed a hare, about half an hour after she was drawn, a young one was perceived to move in the bed, which, on being put in some wool and laid before the fire, recovered and took some milk.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March 13.—As John Braddock, the Allendale postman, was going his usual journey to Hexham, being mounted upon a horse of the galloway kind, he objected to the additional toll at the turnpike-gate, saying, "It was a shame to demand the three half-pence for his horse, which was no bigger than a dog, and rather than submit to such an imposition, he would take his horse upon his shoulders and walk through with him." This he did, affording the gate-keeper two penny-worth of laughter for his three half-pence.—*Ibid.*

March 15.—In the evening an old woman went to the gaol of

Newgate, Newcastle, to see her niece, who was in confinement there, and while commiserating with her, found means to pick her pocket of a few shillings (all the money she had), which was luckily discovered before she left her. The old woman was sent to the tower on the bridge, to take her trial at the next sessions.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1773 (March 17).—Ten convicts were removed from Newgate, Newcastle, and put on board the *Adventure*, Wilson, for Virginia. Shortly after their removal from the gaol, a hole was discovered in the wall of their room, large enough, as far as they had proceeded, to facilitate their escape. The wall was about five feet thick, and they had cut through to within an inch of day. Another night's work would have accomplished their purpose.—*Ibid.*

This month, Mr. Kitchen Haswell, a farmer at Brandon house, near Cornforth, in the county of Durham, had a ewe lambed four lambs.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—Died at Tynemouth, Daniel Bennett, aged 107 years. He had been an out-pensioner of Chelsea, from the year 1706.—*Local Papers.*

April.—Early in this month, as Mr. Crozier, farmer, at Felton, was riding with great speed, along the Morpeth road, and not perceiving the turnpike gate, (near Morpeth) the horse run violently against the same, and was instantly killed. Mr. Crozier was thrown over the gate, but luckily received very little hurt.—*Gillespy's Col.*

May 4.—At Wooler fair, a tinker sitting upon the grass, in the the sheep market, was deprived of two of his upper teeth in the following manner: Being intoxicated with liquor, his head every now and then went see-saw, up and down, which a large tup observing, and taking his nodding for a challenge, ran at full speed against the tinker's head, the horns striking upon his teeth, which luckily did no further damage than breaking out two, and shattering the remainder.—*Ibid.*

May 16.—His grace the duke of Northumberland, and Dr. Percy, his chaplain, being in a post chaise and four, on their way to Sion house, the horses took fright at a peacock flying over their heads, overturned the chaise, and ran so furiously as to break a young tree, which disengaged the traces, and thereby preserved his grace's life. The duke received only a slight contusion on his shoulder; his chaplain was not hurt as he fell on his grace. The two postillions were run over, but received little injury.—*Univ. Mag.*

June 14.—A man named Kirkup, a brewer, fell into a copper of boiling wort, at a public house, in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle: as there was but a small quantity of liquor in the vessel, he got out again without assistance, but was so shockingly scalded, that he died the next morning in the Infirmary in the greatest agony.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1773 (June 15).—A fire broke out in the plate glass-house at Howdon Pans, on the river Tyne, occasioned by some old billet wood being piled up to dry on the north side of the house, which by the heat of the furnace took fire, and communicated the flames to the roof, and and in a small space of time consumed three fourths of the building. By the assistance of Mr. Hurry and his carpenters, the east end of the building was saved, together with the adjoining building belonging to Mr Edward Anderson.—*Local Papers*.

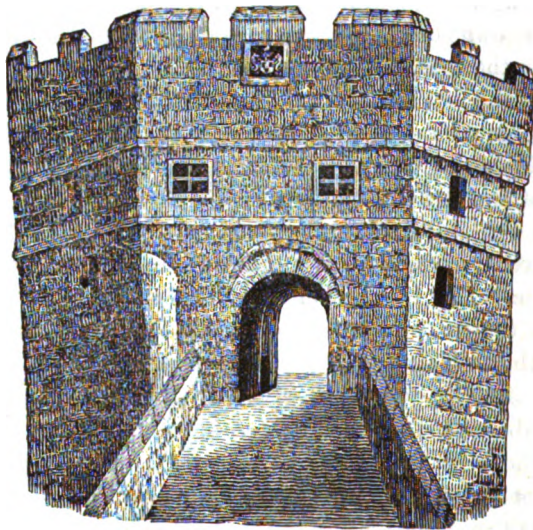
June 19.—The free and accepted masons walked in procession from their lodge at Barnardcastle, to lay the foundation stone of a new bridge over the river Tees, between Rokeby Park and Barnardcastle. Mr. Hutchinson, master of the lodge, walked first in the procession, dressed in white and gold, with John Sawrey Morritt, esq., and the rev. Mr. Zouch, in white leather aprons edged with blue ribbon, and the rest in their respective ranks. After the stone was laid, they proceeded to a tent erected for the purpose, when the master delivered an excellent lecture, which gave great and general satisfaction, and then walked in procession to Rokeby-hall, where a sumptuous entertainment was provided for them by Mr. Morritt, at whose expence the new bridge was built.—*Ibid*.

July 11.—Several young men at Crook, in the parish of Brancepeth, entertaining themselves with that mischievous diversion, long bowls, Wm. Dickinson (a boy of about fifteen years of age) being particularly eager in pointing the way, the pellet (thrown from the hand of his own brother) pitched on his temple, and instantly killed him on the spot.—*Gillespy's Col*.

July 22.—The workmen began to drive the piles for the erecting of a new bridge over the river Tyne at Newcastle, in the same place where the old one stood. Oct. 14th, 1774, the foundation stone of the bishop of Durham's part (the three southernmost arches) was laid and on the 8th July, 1775, his first arch was closed in, on which occasion there were great rejoicings in Gateshead. Mr. Milne was the bishop's engineer, for his portion of the bridge. April 25th 1775, the first stone of the corporation side of Tyne bridge, Newcastle, was laid by sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., amidst a great concourse of spectators. July 8th, 1776, a copper medal, containing a device and inscription, about four inches diameter, inclosed in a thick glass case, was laid in the south east corner of one of the new piers of the bridge, to which spot the boundary of the corporation of Newcastle (denoted by a blue flag stone) extends southward. The device exhibited the Newcastle Exchange, with the genius of commerce sitting by it, supporting the arms of the corporation, and presenting a purse to a figure in the robes of magistracy, directing his attention to a prospect

of some rising piers of a bridge, with shipping and lighters on the river. Over the device the motto—" *Quod felix faustumque sit.*" On the reverse was inscribed—" *This stone, being the boundary of the corporation of Newcastle southward, was laid, anno dom. 1776, in the mayoralty of CHARLES ATKINSON, esq., WILLIAM CRAMLINGTON, esq., sheriff.*" It was laid by Mr. Mayor, accompanied by the sheriff. September 13th, 1779, the sixth and last arch was closed, on which occasion, the corporation gave the workmen a plentiful dinner and drink at Mr. Burrell's, in the Flesh Market, to which place they proceeded with music and colours flying. April 29th, 1781, the passage over the temporary bridge was stopped for carriages, and next day, the workmen began to take it down, when the permanent bridge was opened for foot passengers. Mr. Wooler the engineer was employed by the corporation in the erection of their portion of the bridge.—*Brand, &c.*

1773 (July).—As John Howe, William Robinson, and Hugh Dawson, were laying the foundation of a new building at Allendale Town, an adjoining gable, which they had undermined, suddenly fell upon them; Howe was crushed to death, Dawson had his leg broken, and his ankle dislocated; and the bones of Robinson's leg and feet were shattered in a shocking manner, that he only survived a few days.—*Gillespy's Col.*



TOWER ON TYNE BRIDGE, SOUTH FRONT.

CHAPTER X.



PART of the town-moor, lying west of the Ponteland turnpike-road, from Gallowgate quarry to the West Cow-gate, containing about 89 acres, having been let by the corporation of Newcastle, for the purpose of being cultivated and improved,—the free burgesses became alarmed at such an assumption of power on the part of the governing body. Meetings of the companies were summoned, monies subscribed, a committee* appointed to conduct proceedings at law, and the valuable services of Mr. serjeant Glynn, recorder of London, having been secured, sufficient trespass was committed on which the lessee and magistrates might ground an action. At eleven o'clock, P.M., on the 6th of August, 1773, Mr. serjeant Glynn arrived in Newcastle. His time of coming was kept secret, and the late hour of his arrival was designed to prevent any confusion which might arise from the strong effusions of joy and gratitude the freemen appeared so anxious to express on the occasion : every precaution therefore, was taken by the committee of the free burgesses, to give him a handsome, though private reception ; but their endeavours proved ineffectual ; the freemen had for some days kept a constant look out, and could not rest satisfied, until the worthy serjeant made

* The following gentlemen composed the committee :—Nathaniel Bayles, surgeon ; Henry Gibson, surgeon ; Alexander Adams, hostman ; Thomas Maud, mariner ; Michael Tyzack, surgeon ; William Smith, surgeon ; Benjamin Brunton, cordwainer ; Matthew Laidler, baker and brewer ; William Addison, tallow chandler ; and Thomas Maddison, bricklayer. The members of the committee were presented with the freedom of several of the companies. The Tailors' company presented each of them with a gold ring bearing a suitable inscription. The company of Cordwainers caused a suitable memorial of the event, with the names of the committee, in letters of gold, to be placed in their hall.

his appearance. As soon as his approach was discovered, the bells in Gateshead were set a ringing, guns were fired from every part of the town and neighbourhood and from the ships in the harbour; lights appeared from almost every house; and the people, not content with these usual demonstrations of joy, to which they added the loudest acclamations, took the horses from the recorder's carriage at the top of Gateshead, and dragged it from thence over the bridge, through the whole town of Newcastle, and out by the Westgate to the lodgings provided for him by the committee at the Forth. The rejoicings continued until one o'clock in the morning, without any appearance of tumult.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1773 (Aug. 10).—This morning, at seven o'clock, came on before Mr. justice Gould, and a special jury, the important trial between the free-burgesses and the magistracy of Newcastle, Mr. Joshua Hopper, nominal plaintiff, as lessee under the magistrates; and Messrs. Bayles and Gibson, defendants, for the burgesses. The cause was opened on behalf of the magistrates, by Mr. Davenport, who stated to the jury the nature of the pleadings, and the several issues which were then depending before them. Mr. serjeant Glynn followed, and with the greatest eloquence and strength of argument, entered minutely into the merits of the trial; he stated with precision the several points on which issue had been joined; but declared that he meant to rest the matter solely on the established, and hitherto uncontroverted title of the freemen and their widows to enjoy, subject to no other controul, their clear rights of common on the town-moor; this right he observed, so established as he found it, was not to be shaken, by any attempt whatever; that the evidence in its support was so strong, and uniform, and so well confirmed by every circumstance he should adduce, that he protested that in the course of his experience, he had never met with a claim of this nature that stood upon so firm a basis; relying, therefore, on the goodness of his cause, he could not entertain a doubt that the verdict must follow for his clients:—He pointed out to the jury the very great importance of their office; and painted, in the most striking colours, the situation of numbers of the poor burgesses and their widows who received great benefits from the pasturage of the common, and who were enabled by that assistance to rear up their children, and to administer comfort to age and infirmity; that many of his clients had their sole reliance on these comparatively small advantages of their inheritance; and, with great justice he added, it was peculiarly cruel in the governing part of the corporation, who ought to be the guardians and protectors of their rights, and who enjoyed so magnificent a property as £16,000. or £17,000. a year to endeavour wantonly to cut off from

their fellow citizens this only small resource, which was reserved to them from such immense possessions; for although it might be alleged possibly might be the case, that there was no such intentions on the and part of the magistrates, in the present instance, yet, he observed, and called the attention of the jury to this point, that a verdict against his clients on this issue would infallibly operate to the exclusion of their rights, and lay hundreds of the freemen at the mercy of six and thirty of their own body for ever. He said that under whatever pretence of a view to the interest of the freemen this prosecution might be pleaded to have been carried on, a determination in favour of the plaintiff, could not but be fatal to their interests, as it deprived them, to all intents and purposes, of that right which is the best and only security against the arbitrary encroachments of bad men possessed of power in these or any other future times. Mr. Chumble and Mr. Bolton the other counsel for the defendants, were then proceeding to examine witnesses; the first of whom was Mr. alderman Scafe, and after him sir Walter Blackett, when a compromise was proposed by the counsel for the plaintiff, the terms of which were so very favourable and so perfectly satisfactory to the committee of the burgesses, that their counsel very readily accepted it. By this compromise, the exclusive right to the town-moor and leazes, was confirmed to the burgesses and their widows, by an act of parliament, obtained June 14th, 1774, at the expence of the corporation, who also paid £300. costs. This agreement gave universal satisfaction to the burgesses, who testified their joy, by ringing of bells, firing of guns, and illuminations at night. Large parties paraded the town the whole day with music, decked with blue ribbons; and their expressions of gratitude to the worthy serjeant who was escorted to his lodgings by many hundreds of them, with continued acclamations, cannot be described. The following gentlemen composed the special jury on the above cause. William Bainbridge, esq., Newgate street. Michael Pearson, esq., Pilgrim street. Robert Ilderton, esq., Westoe; Mr. Joseph Robinson, Close; Mr. John Davenport, Side; Mr. Paul Jackson, Pilgrim street; Mr. Michael Callender, Middle street; Mr. Paul Henzell, Low Glass-houses; Mr. John English, Earsdon; Mr. Thomas Newton, Quayside; Mr. John Fenwick, Quayside; Mr. Richard Burdon, Shieldfield."—*Gillespy's Col.*

At the same assizes, John Smith and James Quinton, for a highway robbery, and John Stewart, for a burglary in the Groat Market, received sentence of death.—*Ibid.*

1773 (August).—About the middle of this month, occurred a remarkable instance of the force of natural affection:—the daughter of a farmer, who had died in the neighbourhood of Witton castle, Dur-

ham, aged 13 years, was so sensibly affected at seeing him a corpse, that she fell down in a fit, and continued motionless several hours. The next morning she was better; but on the day of interment, hearing the joiner nail down the coffin, she relapsed; and was again for some hours, in a manner, dead. Her friends, the better to divert her malancholy, took her some time afterwards, to the winning of a ripe crop, on which occasion it is the custom to have some harmless merriment, as music and dancing in the field; and she very innocently partook with the rest. An old woman present, inadvertently exclaimed to a bye-stander, "the girl has soon forgot her father." The words reached her ear, and with a sigh she instantly dropped before the company, who were obliged to bear her to the nearest house, where she remained a considerable time before signs of life reappeared.

—*Gillespy's Col.*

1773 (Aug. 21).—The first stone of a new bridge, at Alnwick, was laid in the presence of his grace the duke of Northumberland, and several other persons of distinction. Under the foundation stone his grace deposited several medals.—*Hist. of Alnwick.*

August 23.—Matthew Vasey, for a highway robbery, was executed at Durham: he behaved in a manner becoming his unhappy situation.

—*Gillespy's Col.*

The same day, the centres were struck from the two new arches of Haydon-bridge, rebuilt by Messrs. Leybourn, Nicholson, and Maddison. One arch was 78 feet the chord line, and the other 69 feet, and were thought to be two of the finest and largest arches that had been built on any part of the river Tyne.—*Ibid.*

August 30.—A milk-market was established at Newcastle, and on this day, Mr. John Hogg, farmer, near Coxlodge, brought the first horse load of milk to the new market at the White Cross, in Newgate street, which was immediately sold.—*Newc. Cour.*

August.—An elegant new organ which cost £309, raised by subscription was placed in Berwick church.—*Local Papers.*

In the summer of the year 1773, in throwing over the bank at Bamborough castle, a prodigious quantity of sand, the remains of a chapel were discovered, in length 100 feet. The chancel, which is now quite cleared, is 36 feet long and 20 feet broad; the east end, according to the Saxon fashion, is semicircular. The altar, which has been likewise found, did not stand close to the east end, but in the centre of the semicircle, with a walk about it, three feet broad. The front, richly carved, is also remaining, and is now preserved amongst the curiosities in the keep.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

September 18.—Died of a lingering illness, at Newcastle, the ingenious Mr. John Cunningham, aged 44, well known in the literary

world for his very eminent talents as a pastoral poet. Sept. 29th, his remains were interred in St. John's church-yard, Newcastle, the funeral was attended by a number of gentlemen of that town, whose regard for the memory of the deceased, prompted this last voluntary mark of their esteem. His friend and patron, Mr. Slack, publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle, erected a table monument over his remains. Mr. Cunningham was at one period of his life a member of the Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland company of comedians; and a dramatic piece written by him when only 17 years of age, called "*Love in a Mist, or the Lass of Spirit*," was performed in Newcastle. Miss Hornsby, late of Albion Street, Newcastle, had an original portrait of Cunningham, done from the life, by the late Mr. Thomas Bewick. The poet was averse to his portrait being taken, therefore Mr. Bewick sketched it from seeing him in the streets.—*Local Rec.*

1773 (Sept. 25).—Died, at his seat at Gainslaw, near Berwick, William Compton, esq., recorder of Berwick. Mr. Compton was buried in the family vault in his own garden.—*Local Papers.*

October 25.—A bull was baited in the Market-place, at Alnwick, which was treated with such brutal wantonness, that at length he lay down and expired in the ring.—*Ibid.*

November 2.—Workmen began to pull down the ancient Scale or Kale cross, at the foot of the Side, Newcastle.—*Brand.*

November 8.—A new lodge of free and accepted masons was constituted at Gateshead (by a special warrant for that purpose from the right hon. Lord Petre, grand-master of the order in England), under the name of the "*Union Lodge*." There was a numerous attendance of masons from the neighbouring lodges, and a grand procession took place on the occasion.—*Local Papers.*

November 24.—William Yelder, esq., sheriff of the town and county of Newcastle, held his first county court, to proceed in two civil actions, as he was commanded by writs of justices. It was said that this court had not been held for the like purpose since queen Elizabeth's reign.—*Ibid.*

While ploughing some ground this year, at Rochester, (the Breminium of the Romans), a large altar was found in the remains of a bath. It was removed to Elsdon church, and is now at Campville. It is inscribed to the Genius and Symbols of the First Cohort of the Vardulians, called the Trusty, and consisting of one thousand soldiers, by Titus Licinius Valerianus the tribune.—*Hodgson. Gillespy's Col.*

December 6.—About noon, the foul air in an old waste of a colliery at North Biddick, on the Wear, took fire, and breaking down the barrier or partition between the waste and the working pit, made most awful explosions. The pit was 80 fathoms deep, and every thing in

the way of the blast was thrown out of the shaft to the height of 200 yards in the air. Most of the pitmen having just in time discovered the danger, were drawn up and escaped unhurt, but eleven boys and one man, who were left behind, lost their lives, and also four horses were torn to pieces, and thrown to an astonishing height in the air. Most dreadful explosions continued all the day at intervals of about five minutes.—*Local Papers.*



ALNWICK BRIDGE.

1773 (Dec. 20).—The constant rain that fell at Alnwick this day, swelled the river so high, as to lie above the height of the piers for the new bridge, part of which were carried off, being only covered with gravel for the winter season.—*Gillespy's Col.*

December 20.—The corporation of Newcastle granted premiums for the largest quantity of fish and potatoes brought into that town in one year, from the 1st of March, 1774, to the 1st of March, 1775. *Brand.*

This year, a very extensive division of common lands, extending to above 16,000 acres, took place within the parish of Lanchester, in the county of Durham. The division included the wastes called Lanchester Fell, Medomsley Fell, Ebchester, Rowley, Satley, and Butsfield Fells, Newbiggin Fell, and Knitchley Fell.—*Surtees.*

The corporation of Berwick, this year, brought an action in the court of king's bench, against James Johnson, a non-freeman (or *foreigner*!) for keeping an open shop and selling linen drapery goods

by retail. The cause was tried at the Northumberland assizes the same year, and a verdict was given for Johnson, subject to the opinion of the court. In the Michaelmas term following, the court gave judgment in favour of Johnson, which established the liberty of non-freemen. This narrow-minded policy, which was once very general, has long since ceased to exist.—*Hist. of Northd.*

1774 (Jan. 9.)—Died, in Newcastle, of the small-pox, in the 23rd year of his age, Mr. George Coughron, who, while a stripling, excelled all his competitors in the mathematical sciences, and soared beyond the reach of the hoary-headed philosopher. This celebrated mathematician was the third son of Mr. John Coughron, a farmer at Wreighill, near Rothbury, Northumberland, which profession the father had determined was the most proper for his son.

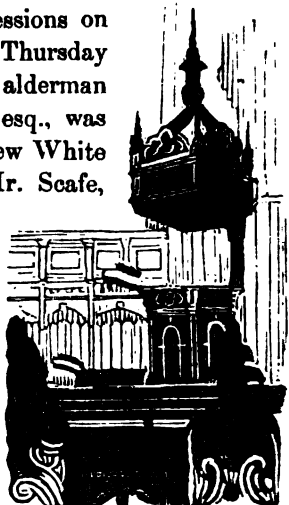


Young Coughron was accordingly sent to the fields, where he was equally distinguished for skill and industry. Still his aspiring genius was not repressed; and every moment of relaxation was devoted to his favourite studies. His perseverance was, perhaps, unequalled; but his progress supported his spirits, and he always returned to the spade or the plough with the greatest cheerfulness. His anonymous correspondence in the Newcastle Courant, then conducted by Mr. Saint, greatly excited the public curiosity, and every means was used to discover the ingenious stranger. Mr. Coughron could not long be concealed, and soon after he obtained the silver medal given by the proprietor of the British Oracle. He also obtained no less than ten prizes for answering questions in Fluxions alone. The editor of the "British Palladium," in an address to his correspondents, says, "All those who wish to wear laurels should win them like Mr. George Coughron, to whom nothing appears too difficult for his penetration to accomplish." The rev. Charles Wildbore, who excelled in the abstruse sciences, in a letter addressed to Mr. Saint, of Newcastle, and dated December 21, 1773, expresses himself thus:—"I have long contended with Mr. Coughron for the superiority in this sublime science; but the sapling sage soars so aloof with his skilful scholiums, &c. that I am now under the necessity of resigning to him the bays." But before this letter was received, the *unparalleled Coughron was a cold corpse*? He was interred in St. Andrew's church-yard, January 10, 1774.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

January 14.—The river Tyne for about four miles below the bridge at Newcastle, was frozen over, and several hundreds of people amused themselves by sliding, skating, and other diversions. Above bridge,

owing to the uneven state of the ice, no person went upon it. Several workmen were employed to break and clear away those pieces that lay contiguous to the piles of the temporary wooden bridge, lest the motion of the ice, by the rising and falling of the tide, might injure them. On the 18th, two young men performed a skating match against time, below bridge: they were to go three miles down the river, and up again in sixteen minutes, which they, with the greatest ease, performed in fifteen minutes.—*Local Papers.*

1774 (Jan. 16).—Died, at the Mansion-house, in the 56th year of his age, the right worshipful Matthew Scafe, esq., mayor of Newcastle, and on the following morning, the regalia were surrendered to Matthew Ridley, esq., as senior alderman, who held the guild that day (Monday), and the sessions on Wednesday, agreeable to the charter. On Thursday came on the election for a mayor and an alderman of that corporation, when Edward Mosley, esq., was unanimously elected mayor, and sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., alderman, in the room of Mr. Scafe, whose remains were privately interred in the family vault at Tanfield, on Wednesday, the 19th. Sunday, January 23d, the mayor, magistrates, and sheriff, went to St. Nicholas' church in mourning, with the regalia covered with crape. The pulpit and the corporation pew were covered with black cloth, and ornamented with escutcheons, and the rev. Dr. Fawcett, vicar, preached a most excellent sermon on the occasion.—*Ibid.*



ANCIENT PULPIT, OF
ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH.

January 23.—Died, Mr. Thomas Crisp, a wealthy farmer, near Morpeth, in the 100th year of his age.—*Ibid.*

February 14.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Elizabeth Roy, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

February 22.—An association for the prosecution of felons was begun by the inhabitants of Gateshead.—*Ibid.*

This month, died at Durham, in the 104th year of her age, Eleanor Shipley, who retained her senses to the last.—*Ibid.*

March 1.—An old woman went into the house of a farmer, named Sadler, near Axwell old hall, in the parish of Whickham, to light a pipe, soon after the thatched roof was on fire, and the wind being very high, the house was burnt down so rapidly, that nothing could be saved but a dresser, and five guineas which were run into bullion.—*Ibid.*

1774 (March 2).—An outer tower of the castle wall, near the gaol gate, in the city of Durham, fell suddenly in the night.—*Surtees*.

April 2.—The remains of the hon. and rev. Dr. Cowper, dean of Durham, were deposited in the north-east corner of the nine altars, in the cathedral. The full service of Croft and Purcell was performed with the greatest solemnity, and upwards of two thousand people attended the last rites to so good and worthy a man. There had not been a dean interred in that abbey since dean Sudbury, in the year 1684.—*Local Rec.*

April 9.—A human skeleton was found near an old quarry, at Low Heworth, in the county of Durham, supposed to have lain there a great number of years.—*Local Papers*.

April 10.—In the afternoon of this day, a flash of lightning struck a house in Longhaugh-shield, near Bellingham, and a man and his wife, sitting by the fire-side, were both instantly killed; another person, sitting between them was not hurt. The house was almost immediately in flames, when a child in bed was burnt to death, and another much scorched. A blind man and an old woman, his wife, who dwelt in another part of the same house, knew nothing of the accident, until the populace came and took them, with their furniture, out by the roof of the house, or they must have likewise perished. The ground around the house was furrowed up, and a large rock near it was shattered to pieces. The house, notwithstanding all the assistance immediately given, was reduced to ashes.—*Gillespy's Col.*



1774 (April 27).—Died, at Hampstead near London, Anthony Askew, esquire, M.D., aged 52 years. He was physician to St. Bartholomew's and Christ's hospitals, and registrar and fellow of the royal college of physicians, London. On the death of his father, Dr. Adam Askew, of Newcastle, he succeeded to his immense wealth, of which he had little enjoyment, having soon after lost a most amiable wife. Twelve orphan children (the eldest of whom was not 20 years of age), were left to lament

the deaths of their most worthy parents. These are the orphans alluded to in the inscription on the beautiful Askew monument in St.

Nicholas' church, Newcastle, of which the wood cut shows an interesting portion.—*Local Rec.*

1774 (April).—Was married at Tanfield, John Smales of Bryan's Leap, aged 60, to Mary Linn, of the same place, aged 73. The bride had not walked twenty yards, at one time, without a stick, for ten years preceding that day, when she found her limbs in no want of such assistance to and from the church.—*Gillespy's Col.*

May 1.—Died, William Hewson, a most ingenious anatomist. He was born at Hexham, on the 14th of November, 1739. His father who was a surgeon and apothecary at Hexham, placed him in the grammar school of that town, under the rev. Mr. Browne. He acquired his first medical knowledge from his father, which was considerably extended by the instructions of Mr. Lambert, an eminent surgeon in Newcastle. He afterwards resided for some time at London, Edinburgh, and Paris, where he ardently laboured to attain eminence. His anatomical abilities were considered as very extraordinary, and his name is frequently coupled with Harvey, from his knowledge of the circulation of the blood.—*Biog. Medica.*

May 16.—The foundation stone of the assembly rooms, at Newcastle, was laid by William Lowes, esq., in the presence of a great company of ladies and gentlemen. The following inscription, engraved upon copper, was affixed thereto :—

“IN AN AGE WHEN THE POLITE ARTS
BY GENERAL ENCOURAGEMENT AND EMULATION,
HAVE ADVANCED TO A STATE OF PERFECTION
UNKNOWN IN ANY FORMER PERIOD;
THE FIRST STONE OF THIS EDIFICE,
DEDICATED TO THE MOST ELEGANT RECREATION,
WAS LAID BY WILLIAM LOWES, ESQ.,
ON THE 16TH DAY OF MAY, 1774.”

June 24th, 1776, these rooms were opened, when there was a very numerous and brilliant company, who expressed great pleasure at their elegance. The assembly was opened by sir William Loraine, bart., with Mrs. Bell, jun., and sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., with Miss Allgood. There was an act of parliament, 14th of Geo. III., to enable Dr. Fawcett, vicar of Newcastle, to grant a lease of part of his garden for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, and at a rent of £20. a-year, for the purpose of erecting this edifice upon.—*Local Papers.*

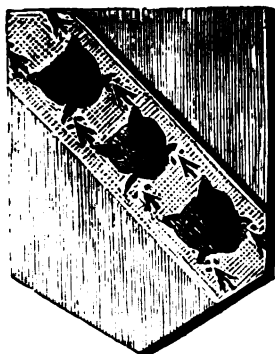
July 7.—A collection of wild beasts, being exhibited in a barn at Haltwhistle, a large Russian bear broke loose, and instantly devoured two of the other animals of the collection : it then made an attempt upon one of the keepers, who narrowly escaped with his life.—Upon

this alarm, the inhabitants of the town assembled together around the barn, and fired several times at the beast, but to little purpose, as they could not procure balls; but at last a young gentleman shot it dead with a small marble.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1774 (Aug. 10).—Being the anniversary of the termination of the dispute between the corporation and the burgesses of Newcastle, relating to the mode of letting parcels of the Town-moor for improvement; a number of the burgesses assembled, and had a bull baited on that part of the moor which the corporation had let, after which they dined at the Black Boy, in the Groat-market. A number of patriotic toasts were drunk, and the day concluded with ringing of bells, firing of guns, &c.—*Local Papers,*

August 20.—George Davidson, was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence at the assizes, for a rape.—*Ibid.*

September 3.—As John Simpson, farmer, near Stockton, was in his field viewing his cattle, a battle ensued between him and his bull, which was contested by the farmer, for about half-an-hour, till at last his antagonist gained the victory, and flung and tore him in such a manner that his life was despaired of; but what is most remarkable, the old man laid on his back, holding by the ring which was fixed to the bull's nose, which so baffled the animal, that he could not rip him with his horns.—*Gillespy's Col.*



October 24.—Died, at Ollantigh, the seat of his son in law, Alderman Sawbridge, M. P. for London, sir William Stephenson, knight, lord mayor of London, in 1764. Sir. W. was brother of John Stephenson, esq., of Knaresdale Hall, who was sheriff of Newcastle in 1728, alderman of Newcastle in 1747, and was elected mayor, 1750, but did not serve, paying a fine of one hundred marks instead. Mr. John Stephenson, died 7th of April, 1761, and by his wife,

Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew Bell, esq., of Woosington, left a numerous family. Of these, Henry the eldest son married his cousin, Sarah, daughter and co-heir, with her sister Ann, (Mrs. Sawbridge,) of sir William Stephenson, and by her had an only child, Elizabeth, who married John Saville, earl of Mexborough. This lady Mexborough, was one of the most celebrated beauties of her day, as the print by Dickinson testifies, engraved from a picture taken of her as Miss Stephenson. She died June 7, 1821, and was buried in the chapel of St. Erasmus, in Westminster Abbey, where a handsome monument has been erected to her memory. Matthew, the second

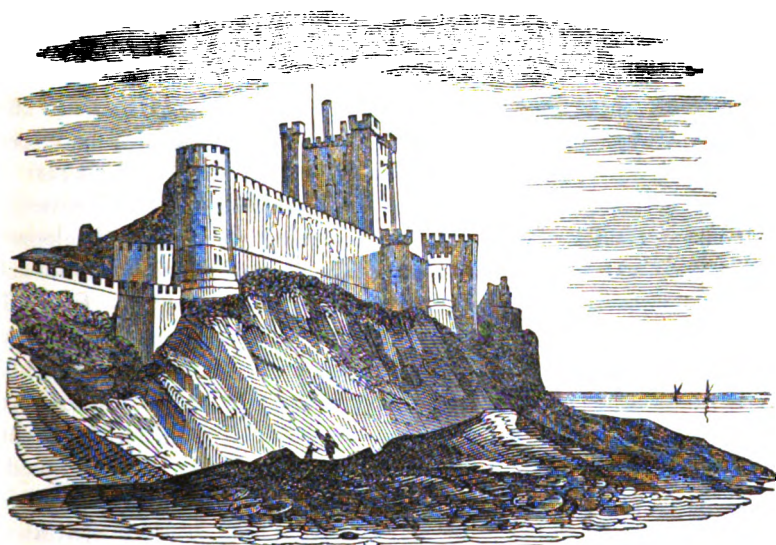
son of John Stephenson, was sheriff of Newcastle in 1759; at a later period he settled at Walworth castle, in the county of Durham. Edward, the third son, realised a large fortune in India, and married Sarah, daughter of H. Bazett, esq. To her he bequeathed a considerable fortune: and she after his death, married secondly, George, fifth earl of Essex, there was also a fourth son who bore the christian name of his father. Of the daughters of Mr. John Stephenson, Elizabeth, married Aubone Surtees, esq., of Newcastle, and was mother of the first countess of Eldon, and Barbara, married Ogle Wallis, esq., of Cawsey Park. The family of Stephenson, were originally of Alston, in Tindale, a fact which is commemorated by the market cross there, which bears this inscription. "This market cross was erected by the right hon. sir William Stephenson, knight, born at Crosslands, in this parish, and elected lord mayor of London, in 1764." John Stephenson, the alderman of Newcastle, seems not to have been less mindful of the home of his fathers than his brother sir William, for he left by his will, dated 29th of May, 1759, £4. per annum, to be divided amongst sixteen poor widows in Alston and Garrigill.—*Will of Sir. Wm. Stephenson. Hodgson. Jefferson's History of Leathward, &c.*

1774 (Oct. 28).—The gaoler at Durham, being absent, the felons made an attempt to escape; his sister going down as usual at nine o'clock to lock up, they seized her; and to prevent her calling out, poured oil down her throat, and in snatching the keys from her side, tore almost all her clothes and one shoe off; they then made their way into the kitchen, where a gentleman was sitting waiting the young woman's return; but surprised at the appearance of the seven desperadoes instead of the lady, he sprung to the door, snatched out the key, with which he defended himself until he got on the outside, and succeeded in locking the door upon them. He then alarmed the neighbourhood, on which four of the prisoners jumped out of the window and made their escape over some back walls; the remaining three were properly secured, and one of the four was afterwards taken.—*Gillespy's Col.*

October 30.—Died, at Longhirst, near Morpeth, aged 110 years, Catherine Brown: she retained her faculties to the last, and what was very remarkable, her diet had been, for many years, bread and small beer of her own brewing.—*Local Papers.*

November 19.—This day was held at Newcastle, the first meeting of the association of schoolmasters in the north of England. The object of the society in this institution, was the relief of their distressed and aged brethren, and their widows and orphans. It was the first institution of the kind in England.—*Ibid.*

1774 (Dec.).—Early in the month, the weather was exceedingly tempestuous. Many vessels were wrecked on the coasts of Northumberland and Durham. The sands, for above a mile in extent, between North Sunderland and Bamborough castle, were covered with wreck and dead bodies. One of the vessels lost here, was the *Liddell*, of Newcastle, a light collier, and all hands perished. Another was the *Peggy*, of Leith, from London, which, with the goods, was valued at £15,000., and several passengers, all of whom, with the crew, perished. All the whole coast from the Tyne to the Tweed exhibited a most terrible scene of desolation, and such wreck of shipping as never was seen on it before. Among the bodies driven on shore was that of a lady, with five diamond rings upon the fingers and gold ear-rings in her



BAMBOROUGH CASTLE.

ears. The utility of lord Crewe's charity, in the appropriation of Bamborough castle to the use of the public, was never more conspicuous than on this melancholy occasion. Decent interment was given to the dead; and the humanity and hospitality of the rev. Dr. Sharp, one of the trustees, was highly exemplary in affording every possible assistance and nourishment to those that were saved. The castle was open to every person who went in quest of his property; and to the honour of the gentlemen all along the coast, they not only exerted themselves in assisting the sufferers, but preserved such goods as were saved from being pilfered.—*Gillespy's Col.*

This year, Malcolm's cross, near Alnwick, was restored by his

descendant, Elizabeth, duchess of Northumberland, to distinguish the spot where Malcolm III., king of Scotland, was slain while besieging Alnwick castle in 1093.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1774.—About this year, a stone was found in the Forest Burn in Rothbury forest, at a place called Meadow-field, near to an iron mine on Ward's hill, with this inscription, "I John Espe, I remane," and which was conjectured to have been the foundation of some erection which formerly stood here for the purpose of smelting iron. In every part of the forest, large quantities of scoria have been found, which clearly demonstrates that iron, at least, has been procured in considerable abundance, and probably lead also. Lead is assuredly a produce of the hills washed by the Coquet, or its dependent streamlets, as many pieces of fine ore have been found in its channels.—*Ibid.*

A gunpowder magazine, this year, duly licensed, was erected by the corporation of Newcastle, at Wincomblee quay, on the river Tyne, east of that town.—*Brand.*

This year, an attempt was made to build a bridge at Hexham, fifty yards westward of the bridge built in 1767, and which had been carried away by the flood in 1771. It was on Mr. Wooler's plan of piles below the piers, but this was soon abandoned, on discovering that on both sides of the river, beneath the gravel, was a quicksand, with no more resistance than chaff. The plan of building a solid wall for the foundations of a bridge was likewise abandoned. In 1777, another bridge was commenced building by Mr. Smeaton, on batter-d'eaux and caissons. While in progress during the following year, its piers were washed away by a flood. The building being again resumed and finished, the passage along it was opened July 1st, 1780, when John Errington, esq., of Beaufront, was the first that passed it, who made a handsome present to the workmen. It stood several floods, and in January, 1781, was viewed by Mr. Smeaton, and several magistrates, when it was highly commended. On Sunday evening, March 10th, 1782, there was a fall of snow, followed by a violent hurricane; the snow was saturated with rain, and extended like one immense lake. The face of the country being steep, the rivers arose suddenly at the junction of the North and South Tyne, without any considerable flat to spend themselves upon. On the Monday morning, Mr. Donkin, of Sandoe (Mr. Errington's bailiff), perceiving an extraordinary flood, came down to the bridge, the water was running with the velocity of 1,000 feet in a minute! Mr. Donkin's son, with some workmen, crossed to the south side, to examine the state of the bridge, they had scarcely returned with the report "*All Safe*," when Mr. Donkin, to his great surprise, perceived some particles of lime flying from the fourth arch. He pointed his observations to that place only. The

lime continued to fall, increasing in size and quantity for the space of a minute; soon after, he perceived a crack across the bend of the arch towards the upper side of the bridge, it gradually widened, the plain part of the spandril between the third and fourth arch shook, the splinters increased, in a minute more it gave way, the two arches and a pier fell together, and in half an hour, the structure was a heap of ruins, only two arches remaining, and these fell in the evening. This bridge was called Mr. Errington's bridge; it consisted of nine arches. From the materials of the former bridge, £3,000. were obtained, and £5,000. more were furnished by the county. Notwithstanding all these misfortunes, a fourth attempt was made, and the present bridge built, under the direction of Mr. Mylne, the last arch of which was closed, September 19th, 1793. The workmen paraded the streets of Hexham in procession on the occasion, and a most joyous evening closed the long-wished-for day.—*Wright's Hexham.*

1774.—In the course of this year, 3720 vessels were cleared from the port of Newcastle, coastwise, and 386 foreign, making in all 4106.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1775 (Jan. 17).—The company of cordwainers of Newcastle presented the freedom of their company to sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., after which he invited them to the mansion-house where they presented him with a prize shoe, out of which several humorous healths were drunk with great festivity.—*Local Papers.*

February 24.—In the afternoon of this day, two felons, who had been committed to Durham gaol, charged with robbing Chester church, made their escape from thence; but one of them having broken his leg in the fall, was soon retaken; the other (a chimney sweeper) swam through the river with his clothes on before he was secured.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March 4.—In consequence of the coal owners having raised the price of coals one shilling per chaldron, meetings of owners of ships in Newcastle, Sunderland, and Shields were held, when it was resolved not to suffer any coals to be put on board their respective ships, until the shilling was taken off;—that the coal owners should be obliged to uphold the standard measure of fifteen London chaldrons per keel; and that, in order to prevent the seamen being distressed, all owners of ships should support their own seamen during the stoppage of the trade, provided they would abide by their respective ships, until the grievances were redressed. On the 16th, the sailors, to the number of about four hundreds or five hundreds met at North Shields, and prevented the further loading of ships with coals. On the 19th, they again assembled in great numbers both at Shields and Sunderland, and began in a very riotous manner to stop all the ships that were

bound for London, with coals, by going on board and unbending their sails and abusing the captains and sailors that were willing to proceed on their voyage. Some ships, in the confusion, made their way over the bar, but having little wind, were soon followed by a great number of boats, well manned, which overtook and boarded them, and then forcibly brought them back to Shields against an ebb tide and wind, though with much difficulty and great hazard; they then unrigged and moored them, after which they unbent their sails, and, collecting a great quantity of lighters, or keels, made a boom of them quite across the river, so that no craft could pass up or down without permission. The mob also stopped the working of all the collieries on the Tyne, below bridge. The magistrates of Newcastle, however, foreseeing this storm, had applied to government for assistance, and a 20 gun ship was accordingly ordered to the Tyne; five companies of the 31st regiment, and three troops of the Scots Greys also marched into Newcastle on the 20th, by whose assistance, all further mischief was prevented. On the morning of the 22nd, Mr. William Chapman, of the Low Barns, near Sunderland, owner of the Concord, Johnson, master, lying in Shields harbour, bound for the Baltic, applied to the magistrates of Newcastle for aid of the civil power, in order to get his ship to sea. On which Mr. alderman Blackett told him he would give him all the assistance in his power, when he immediately went down to Shields with Mr. Chapman, where he took the water-bailiff and several constables on board the ship, and proceeded to sea without molestation, though great numbers of sailors were on the banks on both sides of the river. As soon as the ship was clear of the river, Mr. Blackett, Mr. Chapman, and the officers, returned on shore, when Mr. Blackett was much applauded by several masters for his great intrepidity; and they promised to endeavour to get to sea the next tide, which they accomplished, and by the 25th good order was again re-established.—*Gillespy's Col. Local Rec., &c.*

1775 (March 10).—A duel was fought behind the barracks at Berwick, between a gentleman of that town, and an ensign of the 31st regiment, lying there. Their difference was occasioned from some dispute that happened at the billiard table. The ensign was wounded on the first discharge, but not severely.—*Gillespy's Col.*

March 14.—As a farmer at Morton-banks, near Bingley, was making a drain, he found a copper chest 20 inches below the surface of the ground, containing near 100 weight of Roman silver coins, coined at fifteen different periods from the time of Julius Cæsar downwards. There was also in the chest a silver image about six inches long.—*Local Rec.*

March 15.—A society called the Philosophical Society, was for-

med in Newcastle, for the discussion of questions in general literature. The meetings were held once a fortnight, when each member contributed sixpence towards defraying expences. Amongst it members, whose number never exceeded twenty, were the following:— Richard Fisher, bookseller; John Fryer, land-surveyor; Thomas Bewick, engraver; Thomas Spence, schoolmaster; rev. John Baillie; John Collier, coach-painter; — Wood, schoolmaster; rev. James Murray; Robert Doubleday, and William Chapman. Once a year, when the funds of the society exceeded the expenditure, the members voted different sums to various charitable institutions in the town. (J. B.) On one occasion, Mr. Bewick, and Mr. Spence, who was author of the notable levelling scheme for equally dividing the produce of the land among all classes of the nation, happening to entertain different opinions upon a question, they agreed to decide it, in the manner in which all *knotty* points ought to be settled; namely, by the argumentum baculinum—a bout at single-stick. The floor of the room in which the society met, was the scene of this interesting mode of philosophical controversy, in which the athletic artist had by far the best of the argument, and proved himself a most powerful reasoner at club-logic; and after a half hour's animated discussion, fairly *non-plus'd* his opponent, and compelled him to acknowledge himself defeated.—*Ramble's in Northd.*

1775 (March).—In the neighbourhood of Alnwick, near the abbey, a piece of fine meadow ground, 100 yards long, and 14 broad or more, sunk above fourteen feet; yet there was scarce a crack on its surface, which continued in a flourishing state. It was near the side of a river, and in the vicinity of some coal pits. What is likewise extraordinary, a carriage road near it, which was formerly level, or nearly so, was raised a considerable height, so as to render it impassable.—*Gillespy's Col.*

April 21.—This day, the last stone of Chollerford bridge was laid, on which account there were great rejoicings in that neighbourhood, as the communication, by the great road to Carlisle, was now opened for coaches, chaises, waggons, &c., as usual before the great flood.—*Ibid.*

April 25.—In the evening the first stone of the south pier of Tyne bridge, within the boundaries of the corporation, was laid by sir Matthew White Ridley, mayor. A great concourse of people attended to witness the ceremony.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1775 (April).—During the first week, one evening two masons met at a public house, near Tanfield, and after getting a few gills of beer, a dispute arose which was the best workman. Many arguments were used, and much said on both sides, but to little purpose. At last one

of them betted the other a guinea, that he would worry him; and another guinea, that he would also eat him. The money being deposited in the landlord's hands, preparations were next made for putting the matter into execution: when to the great surprize of the landlord, who before thought little of the dispute, this man eater fell upon his antagonist, tore his neck and throat, and actually ate part of his shoulder, before the landlord could summon more opposition than he himself could give.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—At the Low Lights, near North Shields, 265 salmon were caught by the fishermen at one draught.—*Newc. Cour.*

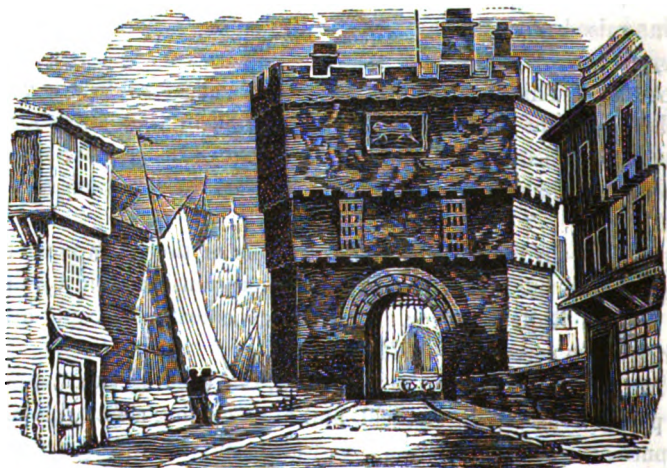
June 24.—Died, at Lowbutcher-race, near Durham, Mrs. Jane Harrison; who, by the account of her friends, was aged 116 years. She had then living at the same place, a sister, aged 110; a daughter 92; a grandson 70; a great grandson 53; a great, great grandson 32 and a great, great, great grand daughter 9 years old.—*Local Papers.*

June 26.—Died in Newcastle, Mrs. Elizabeth Pattison, well known for her practice in the auctioneering of household goods.—*Ibid.*

June.—The building of the low Light-house at North Shields, was completed.—*Ibid.*

Near the close of this month about 30 human skeletons were found by the workmen in digging a ha ha, or sunken fence, in the park near Raby castle, adjoining to Slaughter-close; which close, it is supposed, must have been so called, from some engagement that had happened there.—*Ibid.*

July 4.—The workmen employed in taking down the ruins of Tyne-bridge, at Newcastle, found in the east corner of the pier on which the tower stood, a stone coffin and a human skeleton. The coffin



TOWER ON THE BRIDGE, NEWCASTLE, NORTH FRONT.

was about six feet three inches in length, but without any inscription upon it. Bourne says that "this bridge had once *twelve bold arches*;" but three were "turned into cellaring at the building of the keys." The passage over the bridge was narrow and crowded with houses, besides which there were three towers or gates upon it, each strengthened by a portcullis. The Magazine-gate was built upon an arch of the bridge, used for a magazine for the town. It had the date of 1636 upon it, and is mentioned by Grey, who published his *Chorographia* in 1649, as lately built. "The gate at the bridge ende," spoken of by Leland, is supposed by Brand to "have been a gate in the town-wall, perhaps considerably nearer to St. Thomas' chapel than the late Magazine-gate." The "stronge warde and towre on it," mentioned by Leland, stood near the middle of the bridge. "In this tower," says Bourne, "are kept lewd and disorderly persons till they are examined by the mayor and brought to due punishment, except the crime be of a very gross nature, and are then removed to New-gate, and there continued till the assizes." It seems also to have been used for other purposes; for Harry Wallis, a master shipwright, when committed to the "tower on the bridge," for abusing the puritanical alderman Barnes, found a quantity of malt lying in the chamber where he was confined, and threw it out of the window with a shovel into the Tyne, singing the following lines:—

"O base mault,
Thou did'st the fault,
And into Tyne thou shalt."



The sculptures, here represented probably the only relics of the old bridge, were preserved from demolition by Mr. alderman Hornby, who placed them in his garden-wall in Pilgrim-street; and they are still carefully preserved by the present occupants of the premises, Messrs. Brumell and Gilpin. The stone bearing the arms

of Newcastle, with the motto *Efortiter defendit triumphans*, 1646, originally occupied a place, immediately below the battlements, on the south front of the tower on the bridge (see cut at page 218). The other stone representing the arms of lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, was similarly placed on the front of the gate at the south end of the bridge.—*Brand. Local Papers, &c.*

1775 (July 10).—The workmen began to erect a temporary lighthouse at Tynemouth, in order to rebuild the old one in a more commodious manner.—*Local Papers.*

July 27.—About one o'clock in the afternoon, they had a most dreadful storm of thunder, lightning and hail, at Lemington, near Alnwick, which lasted nearly three quarters of an hour. The damage done to Mr. Fenwick's hot-houses and vinery, was very considerable; there were upwards of 360 panes of glass broken; the wall-fruits and apples were all cut in holes, and entirely destroyed, and all the kitchen stuff. A large field of oats were broken down. The hailstones lay above twenty-four hours. At Yetlington, about five miles west from Lemington, the hailstones were one inch and a half round.—*Gillespy's Col.*

This month, died at Raby, Robert Ainsley, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers.*

August.—As two men were pulling down Fenwick Tower, near Stamfordham, in Northumberland, they found several hundreds of gold coins of Edward III., in a stone chest, covered with sand, twelve inches deep, and placed over the arch of the cellar door, which was immediately under the flags of the castle-gate. They were supposed to have been concealed on an inroad of David, king of Scots, in 1360, as far as Hexham, whence he carried off the two sons of sir John Fenwick, the owner of this castle, who did not long survive the loss, and probably then concealed this. The two labourers having quarrelled, the circumstance became divulged, in consequence of which, sir Walter Blackett, bart., as lord of the manor, had eighty from one man and thirty-five from the other, delivered to him. The men had sold great quantities to various people.* Hutchinson says "that the poor wretch, (thereby implying that only one man was engaged in the transaction) elate with his success, exceeded those limits of discretion necessary to secure his wealth; by launching out into extravagance, he alarmed an avaricious neighbour, and the simple man was left to his original poverty, by a claim from the owner of the tower." The impressions were as perfect as if newly from the mint.

August.—About the end of this month as some young men, belong-

* Hodgson's Northd. 8vo.

ing to North Shields, were on an excursion to Marsden-rocks, to take the diversion of shooting sea-gulls, they agreed to amuse themselves with a mock fight; and to give the greater importance to the joke, one party was called rebels, the other royalists. After discharging a few volleys with powder, they grew warmer in the dispute, and one of the royalists putting shot into his gun, wounded one of the rebel party behind a bush, who returning the salute, made the fire become general, and it was kept up on both sides with great heat for some time; at length many being wounded on both sides, they returned home with bleeding wounds and black faces, to repent of their ill concerted sham fight.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1775 (Sept. 1).—A gentleman being out a shooting, and meeting with some company at Houghton-le-Spring, gave his son (a boy about seven years old) the gun to carry home: first taking out the priming, as the piece was charged. On the boy's way home, he met another boy, about the same age, who took and carried the gun a little way; but on refusing to take it any further, the other, thinking to frighten him, cocked the gun, and held it under his chin, which, whilst he was endeavouring to thrust from him went off, took away one of his hands, and tore his face so shockingly, that he expired immediately.—*Ibid.*

September 2.—The proclamation, declaring the Americans then in arms, and all their aiders and abettors, rebels, was read in several parts of Newcastle. The mayor and sheriff, being out of town, only the aldermen, Mosley, Blackett, and Baker, with the recorder, sheriff, and three or four of the town-serjeants, attended. The populace heard it with silent horror.—*Ibid.*

October 4.—By the heavy rain on this day both the bridges on Whitadder gave way, and then the one at Chirnside was entirely carried off.—*Ibid.*

October 22.—The following melancholy accident happened at the Methodist meeting house, Sunderland. A gentlewoman being to preach there, the place was crowded, so that the galleries, &c. were completely filled. After the service was begun, a woman who sat under one of the galleries (either through fear or design) began to signify her suspicions that the gallery was giving way, the alarm spread among those who were near her, and they immediately began to make for the doors (some indeed, endeavoured to appease them, but in vain). Every thing was now tumult and confusion; the shrieks of women and children filled the place. Some cried out fire, and others that the galleries were coming down; some broke the windows, and threw themselves out, at the hazard of breaking their limbs; while others in crowding down the stairs from the galleries, broke down the rails of the stairs, and fell down from thence among the

benches. Several women were trampled down and miserably bruised, and one woman was killed outright. Those few only who remained quiet in their places, escaped unhurt. It was afterwards found, that the alarm was entirely without foundation.—*Local Rec.*

1775 (Oct. 23).—A meeting of the free burgesses of Newcastle took place at the Forth-house, to petition his majesty against the war with America. It was signed by 1,210 burgesses, and presented by sir George Saville,—sir Walter Blackett and sir Matthew White Ridley, barts., having declined to present it. Another address to his majesty, urging the subjugation of America, was got up, and presented by sir Walter Blackett and sir M. W. Ridley, barts. This was signed by 169 persons.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—Died, at Chesterhope, Mr. Thomas Forster, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

November 2.—The new colliery, at Willington, near Howden Pans, Northumberland, was won; on which occasion the owners gave a fat ox roasted, a large quantity of ale, and a waggon load of punch to the pitmen, sinkers, &c.—*Ibid.*

November 23.—The ferry boat at Lambton, near Chester-le-Street, upset whilst crossing the river Wear, when eight persons unfortunately perished—one man leaped out of the boat, upon a shelf of stones, which he knew were there (they being bare at low water), and stood up to the neck in water until rescued by a boat; other six who were in the boat, were also saved by the means of boats going to their assistance.—*Ibid.*

November 25.—Died, at Beanley, Nicholas Henderson, formerly a rye carrier between Wooler and Morpeth, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

November 26.—Died, at Angerton, near Morpeth, Mary Soppit, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

November 27.—As the harriers, of John Burdon, of Hardwick, esq., were running a hare, they chanced to unkennel a fox, which they ran and killed near Darlington, after a very smart chase of 25 miles and crossed the Skerne: out of 25 horsemen, only two and the huntsman were in at the death.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November.—Died, at Monkseaton, Mary Magdalen, a poor woman, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

December 7.—George Ramsay, who was in custody for not appearing to his bankruptcy, with another man for robbing a till, broke out of the tower at the Close-gate, by cutting a hole in the ceiling.—*Gillespy's Col.*

December.—About the middle of this month, a boy fell from the round-top of a vessel at Shields, near 30 feet high, but luckily the carpenter having just before turned over an iron hooped water tub

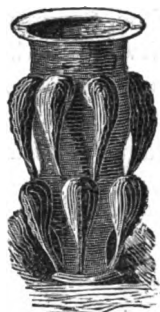
upon deck to drain, he fell upon it, burst the hoops with an explosion like a pistol, and was taken up very little hurt.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1775 (Dec. 18).—In the evening, a fire was discovered in the glass-warehouse near the Close-gate, belonging to Messrs. Cookson and Airey. Part of the building, and several hogsheads of glasses were destroyed to the amount of £500 in value. By timely assistance the flames were prevented from spreading further.—*Ibid.*

Died, this year, the rev. Thomas Randall, who was master of the free school at Durham. He had free access to the libraries and public offices; and his MSS. consisting of about twenty volumes in quarto, he bequeathed to the late George Allan, esq., of Grange, near Darlington.—*Sharp's Hartlepool.*

This year, the Society of Arts presented a premium of seven guineas to Mr. Thomas Bewick, of Newcastle, for an engraving on wood, the subject, "*The Old Hound.*"—*Local Rec.*

This year, a glass vase was found by a workman employed in throwing down a hedge about a hundred yards to the north of the bridge at Castle Eden, which leads from the chapel to the castle. The mouth of the vase was applied to a human skull, so near the surface, as to leave the bottom of the vase exposed in the gutter of the hedge. The body had been deposited horizontally, with the head towards the east, and had been covered with a heap of common field stones. The labourer represented the skull and bones as appearing entire; but he was prevented by the clergyman of Castle Eden from making any further research. The ground was, however, again opened soon after by Mr. Burdon's directions; and a cavity was discovered beneath the *cairn*, or heap of stones, large enough to contain a body of ordinary dimensions, with a quantity of deep-coloured soil, the ashes probably of the bones which had mouldered on the admission of the air. The vase was full of earth, and when emptied appeared to retain a subtile aromatic smell. It may be added, that the place of discovery is almost exactly the spot where the grant of William de Thorp fixes the cemetery of the ancient chapel of St. James in the twelfth century.—*costera sub cemeterio*; yet these sepulchral remains seem to vindicate a still higher antiquity, and to belong to that distant æra.—



"When bones of mighty chiefs lay hid
Beneath the cairns grey pyramid"

The vase is of thick blueish glass; and resembles that of the beads and snakestones which are allowed to be of British manufacture, the neck is narrow; and from the body of the vase proceed a number of

short tubes of singular form, all closed at the extremity.—A vase, broken in the discovery, but apparently when perfect exactly similar to the Castle-Eden relique, was discovered at Chatteris, in the Isle of Ely, in 1757, together with a skeleton, and the remains of ancient armour—"Exesa—scabra rubigine tela."—And a third vase, of similar form, has been since found in Wiltshire, in a barrow decidedly British.—*Surtees.*

1776 (Jan. 6).—Died, in Newcastle, Isaac Thompson, esq., printer, aged 72 years. He was a person of considerable literary attainments, and his compositions, which are very numerous, lie scattered in many periodical publications. He was author of "A Collection of Poems, occasionally Writ on Several Subjects. Newcastle upon Tyne, Printed by John White, for the Author, and sold by the Booksellers, 1731." Mr. Thompson, gave public lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy in 1739, and in the following year, he was joined in these lectures by Mr. William Elstob, and afterwards by Mr. Robert Harrison, the great mathematician, master of the Trinity-house school, in Newcastle, who died at Durham, in November, 1802. Mr. Thompson published a newspaper, called the Newcastle Journal, and the Newcastle General Magazine, &c. &c. He was interred on the 9th of January, in the Friends' burial ground.—*Local Rec.*



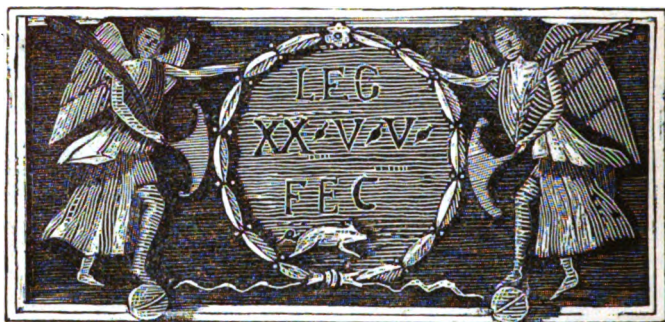
CHAPTER XI.

A.D. 1776.



ON the evening of the 26th of January 1776, a heavy fall of snow commenced at Newcastle and in the neighbourhood, which continued almost without intermission during that night and the next day. The snow was thrown into such dreadful drifts on the high roads in the country, as to render most of them totally impassable, by which the attendance on the market-day, in Newcastle, did not exhibit even the ordinary number of people seen in the streets on any other day of the week. The frost became so very intense, that the country people residing within a few miles of the town, who had surmounted every obstacle to get to market, had their eyes apparently frozen up. The river from Newburn, to about two miles below the bridge at Newcastle, was totally frozen and fixed; and hundreds of people were walking and skaiting thereon every day. Two women going home from Newcastle market, were so fatigued by the deep snow, and benumbed by the frost, that they were obliged to take shelter in a house on the road, at Loosing-hill, near Whickham, where they both died in a few hours. The same day a fisherman was found in the snow between Trimdon and Morton moors. A poor fellow, Ralph of Winlaton, well known for selling rods and walking-sticks in Newcastle, perished in the snow between Swalwell and Winlaton. The same night, two farmers going from Newcastle to the neighbourhood of Earsdon, were lost on Killingworth-moor; their horses were found next day. Jan. 29th, some hundreds of men were employed in clearing the Shields, Ponteland, and Morpeth turnpike-roads; on the latter of which a horse, with a saddle, was found dead in the snow.—*Local Papers.*

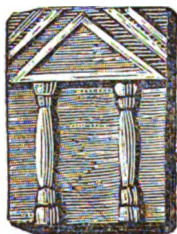
No. 3.



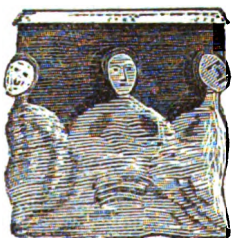
No. 1.



No. 9.



No. 7.



1776. (April).—The accompanying engraving of an altar No. 1. found at Lanchester, is from a drawing made by Hutchinson, at the above date, from the original in the library at Durham. It was found at the east end of a room in the station, and is dedicated to Fortune by Publius Ælius Atticus, a præfect. The back is undressed. An immense number of altars and inscriptions have been found here, among which are the accompanying. No. 2. seems to have been the base of some pillar or monument and is dedicated to "the genius of the prætorium, by Claudius Epaphroditus Claudianus, tribune of the 1st or 2nd cohort of the Lingones." The fine tablet No. 3. represents the corona supported by two winged victories, with the usual symbols, drapery and attitudes. The boar is the sign or symbol of the twentieth legion, by

No. 6.



No. 5.



No. 8.



No. 4.



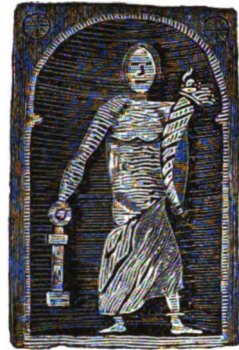
No. 10.



No. 13.



No. 16.



No. 11 a.



No. 15.



No. 11 b.



No. 12.



whom the tablet was made. 4. is dedicated to Mars, and 5. is to the same deity by Caius Aurelius, and has on the sides the *patera* and *præfericulum*. 6. is inscribed to the local god *Vitires*. 7. is a small altar with three female figures supposed to represent some of the *matres*. 8. has a toad on one side and the usual sacrificing instruments on the other. 9. has a pediment supported by two rude pilasters. These are all uninscribed. The 10th is a small altar with a boar on the side. The inscription is much defaced, but it is supposed to relate to the god *Vitires*. The remarkable altar (11

No. 14.



No. 2.



a. and b.) has on one side a Greek and on the other a Latin inscription, forming only the third Greek writing in the Island. It appears to have been erected by Titus Flavius Titianus, a tribune. 12. This altar was in two pieces; but when joined, shew that it was erected by a vexillation (a troop) of an equestrian cohort, to Jupiter. 13. is something like a flower pot on a square stone, and has most probably been fixed to some suitable place, as on a balustrade or parapet. 14. is a small altar seen by Hutchinson in a stone wall at Broomlawe, near the station. It is much defaced, but is supposed to be dedicated to Mars, by Acilius. The remainder of the inscription is obliterated. The 15th is a figure of Fortune, seated, clothed, and furnished with the wheel, cornucopia, and a ball at her foot. The head and right arm are broken off, but the former is preserved along with the statue itself in the library at Durham. The letters and figures on the bottom merely represent the initials of the name of the finder and his wife, with the date of its discovery. The last is built up in the vestry wall of the church at Lanchester, and is believed to represent a genius, as well as the former one. At least this may be the emperor represented as such.—*Hutchinson's Durham*.

1776 (May 12).—Died, John Tempest, of Wynyard, esq., M. P. for the city of Durham in 1742, 1747, 1754, and 1761. He was buried at St Giles', Durham, 17th May.—*Sharp's Burg. of Durham*.

June 25.—Early in the morning, two soldiers having a quarrel with some keelmen in Sandgate, and the former finding themselves overpowered by their adversaries, one of them drew his sword, and in his rage struck a labourer (unconcerned in the fray) so violent a blow on the head therewith, that a large portion of the skull on the left side was cut entirely out, which occasioned his death soon after.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 5.—A most violent thunder storm happened in Newcastle. The first flash of lightning, which was uncommonly vivid, fell upon the chimney of Mr. Wm. Yelder's dwelling-house, struck it down, entered the roof, followed and shattered the spars, forced off the tiles, entered the rooms, tore up part of the floors, rent the ceilings, and shattered the spouts on both sides of the house, and sash-frames and bedsteads in the upper rooms; forced out almost every pane of glass in the windows, throwing them nearly thirty yards distance; tinged some plate and melted the bell-wire, and following the handle rod at the street door, seized the end of the lock staple, and split the door-case and door near the lock in a very extraordinary manner. What was very remarkable, it locked one door so that it could not be opened without taking off the lock, and the clock was stopped by it at 26 minutes past 8. It ploughed furrows in the walls of the upper rooms,

shivered a chimney-piece, took off the top part of a looking-glass, in a room where Mrs. Yielder was sitting, and did considerable damage to other parts of the house and furniture. A canary bird, in a wire cage, remained unhurt, nor was the cage damaged, though the window before which it hung was shattered greatly, and the ceiling above it all torn down. Providentially no person was hurt, though the family were all in the house. A boy in the house adjoining, was thrown down by the shock, but received no injury. During the thunder storm, a ball of fire entered an apartment in the infirmary, through an open window, where Mr. Taylor, the apothecary, and the matron, were sitting at breakfast. It passed between Mr. Taylor's legs, threw down the tea kettle, went through the door then standing open, rushed along the passage, and out at an open window at the end of the passage, without doing any damage. The most dreadful clap of thunder in the storm, succeeded the flash of lightning within one second of time; so that the cloud from whence the fire descended could not be above 1,000 feet from the earth. This thunder storm was very violent to the westward of Newcastle. At Kingswood, near Hexham, a girl, servant to Mr. Wilson, milking a cow, was struck by the lightning and killed on the spot; the cow was unhurt. Two horses grazing on a fell near Newbrough, and a cow at Wolsingham, were also killed by it, and a cottage near Simonburn, was thrown down, but fortunately no person was then in it.—*Local Papers.*

1776 (July 13).—A violent thunder storm took place in the evening—a flash of lightning entered the chimney of a farm-stead, called Greenwell, in the neighbourhood of Lanchester; it made its way through the house, split several spars and doors from top to bottom, broke all the windows, shivered the clock-case all to pieces, and scattered the works round the kitchen. It tore all the plastering from the sides and ceilings of the rooms, and rent the walls in many places. There was a man-servant and three children in the house at the time, the man was struck down at the kitchen fire side, and remained insensible for a long time; two dogs lying near him, were struck by the same flash, which instantly killed one of them, the other recovered, the children escaped by getting into a close bed, on hearing the first clap of thunder.—*Ibid.*

July.—Mr. Knipe preached on Holy Island, from Exod. iii. 5, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."—*Ibid.*

August 3.—A very remarkable whirlwind occurred in a field adjoining to Dr. Wilkinson's at the vicarage at Felton, where he had some people at work making hay; the day was remarkably hot and sultry, without a breath of wind, when of a sudden the hay makers,

observed the tops of the hay cocks to be taken off in a most violent and sudden manner, and one whole hay cock carried up, vertically, through some trees under which it stood; and (as they expressed them) it seemed to stick to the clouds till it totally vanished; the extent of the whirlwind was about three acres and a half, and the tops of all the cocks, except that one which was carried into the clouds, were blown with great rapidity over the town of Felton, to the distance of about 600 yards.—*Newc. Weekly Mag.*

1776 (August 4).—Married at All Saints', Newcastle, on Sunday, John Bainbridge, a carter of the Ewes-burn, to Ann Hutchinson of the same place; their ages together making 155 years, the bridegroom being 80, and the bride 75.—*Ibid.*

August 15.—Joseph Humphreys was executed near Durham, for breaking into a dwelling-house near Sunderland, and stealing thereout £14. 4s. 6d. He declared his innocence of the crime for which he suffered, to the last, and died resigned. He was about 26 years of age.—*Local Papers.*

August 21.—Robert Knowles, the North Shields postman, was executed on the town-moor, for stealing a letter out of the Newcastle post-office, in the preceding October, containing two £50. bank of England bills, the property of Robert Rankin, merchant, of Newcastle. He was dressed in black, and read a paper acknowledging the justice of his sentence. Knowles was apprehended November 13th, 1775, and escaped out of gaol about 9 o'clock in the night of June 1st, 1776. Having complained of being ill some time before, the humanity of the gaoler had so far prevailed, as to indulge him in his apartment without his irons. The turnkey, as customary, going to lock in at the above hour, observed a bundle lying in the cell, and enquired of the prisoner what it contained, he said foul linen; on the turnkey beginning to examine it, Knowles slipt behind him, and drew back the lock on the inside (which the turnkey had locked himself in by, while he had examined the cell), put the hasp over the staple on the outside of the cell door, which received the hang-lock, fastened the staple with a piece of wood he had made for the purpose, and walked off. The turnkey finding himself secured in the place of the prisoner, called out for assistance; and though released immediately, the prisoner was fled. Knowles was re-taken on the afternoon of June 6th, while passing the engine of Walker colliery, by some men employed there, who received twenty guineas offered for his apprehension. At the place of execution, a little before he was turned off, a great uproar happened among the populace, which it was supposed took its rise from the ground of an old pit heap, where several people were standing, giving away, and occasioned a sudden outcry, which

startled some horses that ran amongst the crowd; in an instant the consternation became almost general, some flying one way and some another, without knowing for what reason; in the tumult, many were thrown down and run over, but no material accident happened.—*Newc. Weekly Mag.*

1776.—Same day, Andrew Mackenzie, a soldier, for robbing a person named Temple, on Shields road, was executed at the Westgate, Newcastle. He had written a confession the night before, which he intended speaking at the gallows, but his spirits failed him before he had got two lines of it delivered. During the execution of Mackenzie, a butcher belonging to Newcastle, named William Robson, who had also attended the execution of Knowles, suddenly dropped down, near the gallows, and instantly expired. It may perhaps afford an useful hint to those who habituate themselves in the practice of profane swearing, to be told that this young man was so addicted to that vice, as frequently, on the most trivial occasion, to exclaim, *God strike me dead!* Probably the last invocation was regarded.—*Ibid.*

September 23.—The foundation stone of St. John's lodge of free and accepted masons, in Low Friar street, Newcastle, was laid by Mr. Francis Peacock, their worshipful master. Underneath the stone was placed a copper plate, with an elegant Latin inscription. It was dedicated, October 16th, 1777, with great solemnity. To attend the ceremony of the dedication of this lodge, there was the most respectable and numerous convention of that order, that ever appeared in the northern parts of this kingdom. The music was performed by an excellent band, the vocal portion by the best voices from the choir of Durham cathedral. A pathetic exhortation was delivered by Mr. Huntley, and an elegant oration, displaying the antiquity, progress, and excellence of the order, by the rev. Dr. Scott of Simonburn. The festival was held in the new assembly-room, in Westgate-street, where near four hundred of the brethren dined together.—*Hutchinson's Northd.*

October 12.—Thursday, Miss S—— of Houghton-le-Spring, possessing an independent fortune of one thousand guineas, eloped from that place, with a young supernumerary of the excise, on a matrimonial jaunt to Gretna Green. They had but just set off from Houghton, when the young lady's mother was informed of the intention of the lovers, whom she immediately pursued on horseback, and came up with them, just as they alighted at an inn near the Westgate, Newcastle, where she vented her fury not only by threats but cuffs, and a total demolition of the young lady's head dress, but all to very little purpose, for the young couple contrived to slip out of the room, and turning the key on the old lady, kept her close prisoner, until

a post chaise and fresh horses could be got ready, in which they rode off in triumph.—*Newc. Weekly Mag.*

1776 (Nov. 5).—The ancient and honourable society of free and accepted masons of St Nicholas' lodge, Newcastle, met, and under the direction and immediate inspection of John Errington, esq., of Beaufront, provincial grand master, for Northumberland, consecrated with great solemnity, the old Assembly Room, in the Groat Market, their lodge. After which they had a very elegant entertainment.—*Local Papers.*

November 19.—Four men were killed by the falling of a scaffold at Washington new-winning pit, on the river Wear.—*Newc. Jour.*

December 5.—Died, at Northumberland house, London, her grace, Elizabeth, duchess of Northumberland. Her grace died on the anniversary of her birth day, having just completed her 60th year. December 18th, at night, her remains were interred at Westminster Abbey. By her grace's repeated desire, the funeral was as private as could be consistent with her rank. About ten o'clock the procession moved from Northumberland house. Early in the evening many persons had gained admittance within the iron gate that leads to the chapel in Westminster Abbey, where the remains of her grace were to be deposited, several of whom had placed themselves upon monuments and other parts, the better to see the procession as it passed, and a number of men and boys had climbed up and seated themselves over the front of St. Edmund's chapel, which joins that of St. Nicholas. The dean and attendants had not passed the above-mentioned place above three minutes, before the whole front came down, consisting of thick heavy oak, with iron bars, and part of the stone work, supposed in the whole to be upwards of three tons weight. The shrieks of the sufferers are not to be described, and amongst others were the following accidents:—One gentlemen had both his legs broken, a little boy met with the same misfortune, three persons had their arms broken and were otherwise hurt, a soldier of the guards was cut in the head and so much bruised that his life was despaired of, and when taken up was covered with blood; many others were much bruised and hurt. This terrible misfortune delayed the ceremony of interment upwards of two hours.—*Gent's Mag.*

December 24.—Died, near the Barras-bridge, Newcastle, Cuthbert Forster, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers.*

This year, a survey of Durham cathedral being taken, and the fabric adjudged in a state of insecurity and rapid decay, a thorough repair was immediately commenced, by the dean and chapter. For several years the expenses of this repair were not less than from £1,500. to £2,000, annually.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

1776.—Wallis in his history of Northumberland, mentions a stork (*Ardea Ciconia*, Linn.) having been killed, this year, near Chollerford bridge. Its skin was nailed up against the wall of an inn at that place, and drew crowds of persons from the adjacent parts to view it. This fine bird is now seldom if ever seen in Britain.

A more eligible road from Newcastle to Shields, was this year formed behind Sandgate. It is called the "New Road."—*Local Papers*.

This year, in a coal mine near Sunderland, a large toad was found alive in a solid coal, near 190 feet under ground, on being exposed to the air, it instantly died.—*Ibid*.

This year, an act of parliament was passed for the division and inclosure of certain open common fields, stinted pastures, and commons, moors, or waste grounds, within the manor and parish of Corbridge, in Northumberland.—*Ibid*.

1777 (Jan.)—Died, at Redworth, near Heighington, Mrs. Lane, in the 101st year of her age; she enjoyed a good state of health to the last.—*Ibid*.

January 15.—Died, at Alnwick, of the small-pox, in the 24th year of his age, that great and celebrated mathematician, Mr. William Wilkin. It is not a little singular, that he and his intimate and ingenious friend Mr. George Coughron, were both self-taught, and both fell victims to the small-pox in their youth. Their works in the Diaries and other publications, will remain lasting monuments of their acquirements.—*Ibid*.

February 2.—Died, at the east end of Sandgate, Newcastle, Ann Forster, at the amazing age of 123. She retained her memory in wonderful perfection, until a few days before her death; had been supported only a few years by the parish, and the small contributions of individuals. In her early years, she assisted in carrying ballast from lighters in the river to the Ballast-hills, now a public depository for the dead. She was born in the latter end of Oliver Cromwell's protectorship; and could remember the building of the bridge over the Ouseburn, at the Low Glass-houses, at which time she was about nine or ten years old.—*Ibid*.

February 8.—Died, at her house, in Northumberland Street, Newcastle, Mrs. Waters, a widow lady, in her 103 year.—*Ibid*.

February 12.—About eight o'clock in the evening, the impressed men on board the Union tender at Shields, rose upon the crew and took possession of the ship, and notwithstanding the fire from the other tenders, and Clifford's fort, carried her out to sea. On the 14th, advice was received of her safe arrival at Scarborough, and that only seventeen men had quitted her.—*Ibid*.



1777 (Feb. 14).—Died, in London, in the 69th year of his age, Sir Walter Blackett, bart., son and heir of sir Walter Calverley, of Calverley and Esholt, in Yorkshire. He was born December the 29th 1708; and had an act of parliament, 21st of March, 1733, to enable him to take and use the surname of Blackett only, pursuant to the will of sir William Blackett, bart. On the 13th of October in the same year he was admitted to the freedom of Newcastle, and was mayor of that town in 1735, 1748, 1756, 1764, and 1771; high-sheriff of Northumberland in 1732. and M. P. for Newcastle in 1734, 1741, 1747, 1754, 1768, and for the seventh time in 1774, after a severe contest of eight days. In his life time he was a munificent contributor to public works and private charities. In 1751 sir Walter Blackett entered warmly into the measures adopted for establishing the Newcastle infirmary; subscribed £200. towards the building, and £50. a year in support of the institution; and five years after gave £1,000. to it. £10. of the interest of that sum to be paid to the chaplain of the institution. If greatness of character consists in usefulness, sir Walter Blackett certainly deserved the name of a great man. His splendour was the power that kept many thousand hands in motion—that cheered and comforted the feeble and the destitute. His works and charities are still the grateful theme of common conversation. There are full-length portraits of him at Wallington, and in the infirmary in Newcastle, by Reynolds;* and half-lengths at Nettlecombe, and at Mr. Richmond's, of Humshaugh; besides an engraved portrait by Fittler, in Brand's Newcastle, and a copy of it in Straker's "*Memoirs of his Public Life.*"—*Hodgson's Northd.*

February 24.—Lieutenant Oakes, on the impress service at Shields, having had information that the seamen or board the colliers had left their ships, and taken boats to hinder the vessels from sailing that were then ready; ordered his boats to be manned, and to prevent any ill consequences from resistance, took two blunderbusses loaded with bird shot. On seeing a boat containing about twenty men, he rowed towards it, but before he could reach it, they had got close to the ships and got on board the *Present Succession*, John Reed, master, where they mustered on the forecastle, joined by a great number of seamen from different ships; and whilst Mr. Oakes was employed in securing those for his majesty's service who had not got out of the

* Presented to that institution by sir John Trevelyan, bart.

boat, those on board threw large coals and billets of wood at him, threatening his life in the most opprobrious manner, and paying no regard to the remonstrances and expostulations which he made use of, they continued their unwarrantable proceedings so obstinately, that he presented a gun three times, and at last elevated it to throw the shot above the men's heads, but it hung fire, and upon his taking it from his shoulder to see what was the matter, it went off and wounded one of the men assembled on board the *Present Succession*, so much, that he afterwards died. It was thought scarcely possible for Mr. Oakes and his people to have escaped with their lives.—*Local Papers.*

1777 (April).—Died in the township of Woolviston, near Stockton, John Mowbray, aged upwards of 100 years. His wife was then living, and was above 100 years.—*Ibid.*

May 3.—During a thunder storm, the house of Hannah Wanlass and her son, at Ouston, near Chester-le-Street, was struck by the lightning. It entered the house by the roof, and descended to the ground floor, where Mr. Wanlass (her son), and three of his children were sitting by the fire-side, struck one of the children on one side of the head, and laid it insensible for some hours, threw the father and the other two children off their seats, one upon another, without hurting them, a cat, sitting by the fireside was severed into four parts by the lightning, which also set the bedding and furniture on fire, and all was totally consumed.—*Ibid.*

June.—There was a very great flood in the high quarter of Hexhamshire; the water descended as it were in sheets, and smoking along the ground, on a sudden turned small rivulets into unfordable streams, the ground was torn up in many places, some houses filled with water, and even in danger of being carried away; stone walls were thrown down, pavements demolished, and the materials rolled to a considerable distance.—*Ibid.*

October 2.—The Dispensary, at Newcastle, was first opened in a house in Pilgrim Street; but, upon the funds for supporting this laudable charity accumulating, the governors were enabled to make a purchase of the free masons' lodge (St. John's), in Low Friar Street, to which it was removed in 1790.—*Ibid.*

November.—Some workmen pulling down an old house at Whitburn, in the county of Durham, found several pieces of old silver coin of various inscriptions, coined in different reigns some above 250 years old, and others as late as the reign of king Charles I.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

November 3.—At night, a dreadful fire broke out in the stackyard at Foxton-hall, near Alnmouth, in Northumberland, which, before it

could be got under, consumed upwards of twenty stacks of corn, mostly wheat. The dwelling-house, the hay, and one stack of barley, were saved. It was strongly suspected to have been the work of incendiaries, as many of the stacks were on fire at the same time.—*Local Papers.*

1777 (Nov. 16).—At night, the custom-house, at Hartlepool, was burnt down; a large seizure of goods had been lodged there the day before, from which there was great reason to believe it had been maliciously set on fire.—*Ibid.*

Within the door of the chapter-house of Hulne abbey, near Alnwick, there was, this year, found a skeleton, extremely perfect, supposed to have been one of the superiors of the convent.—*Ibid.*



HULNE ABBEY.

The Society of Arts, this year, presented the silver medal to Messrs. Callander, of Newcastle, for cultivating and curing rhubarb.—*Ibid.*

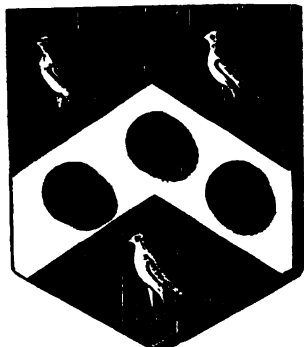
This year, there was an order of common council for conveying the water in Spring-gardens, at the head of Gallowgate, Newcastle, into that town for public use.—*Brand.*

Wallsend, the Segedunum of the Notitia, and once the most eastern station on the line of the Wall, has, ever since this year, been the site of the working pit of the great and famous colliery of Wallsend.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1778.—Claypath chapel (Independent), Durham, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1751 to 1804, and from 1778 to 1837, and of burials 1 entry in 1830.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1778 (Jan. 26) —Died, at Piercebridge, near Darlington, Mary Hildray, aged 107 years, a tenant to Lord Darlington, and the Baby family, near 90 years, and was never married.—*Local Papers*.

February 8.—Died, at Hexham, Thomas Graham, aged 103 years. He was by trade a tinker, which he followed till within a few hours of his death; but his character was the very reverse of the generality of people of that denomination. He served as a private soldier in King William's army.—*Ibid*.



April 6.—Died, at Heaton, near Newcastle, aged 67 years Matthew, Ridley, esq.

"Bright star of Heaton,

"You're aye our darling sweet one,

"May Heaven's blessings light on

"Your Lady, bairns, and you."

He was mayor of Newcastle in 1733, 1744, 1751, and 1759; made governor of the merchant's company in 1739, and was one of the unsuccessful candidates for representing Newcastle in parliament, at

the election in 1741. He was, however, M. P. for Newcastle in the five successive parliaments from 1747 to 1774, in which last-named year he retired from that office on account of declining health. In the rebellion in 1745, he stood in Newcastle at the head of the supporters of the reigning family, and "by his prudence and activity averted the attack meditated against that town by the enemies of the house of Brunswick, and thereby materially checked the progress of their arms. There is a fine monument to his memory, by Bacon, in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle. It is of marble, and consists of a statue of him as large as life, an epitaph, and various emblematical figures. His public character was spiritedly drawn by a friend in the Newcastle courier, and is given in Brand's Newcastle, ii. 550.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

April 26.—Died, in Newgate street, Newcastle, Mrs. Slack, wife of Mr. Slack, printer and publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle. To her literary abilities, the public were indebted for several valuable publications (*Fisher's Grammar and Tutor, the Pleasing Instructor, &c.*), adapted to the use of schools, as well as private instruction, which will remain lasting monuments to her memory.—*Local Rec.*

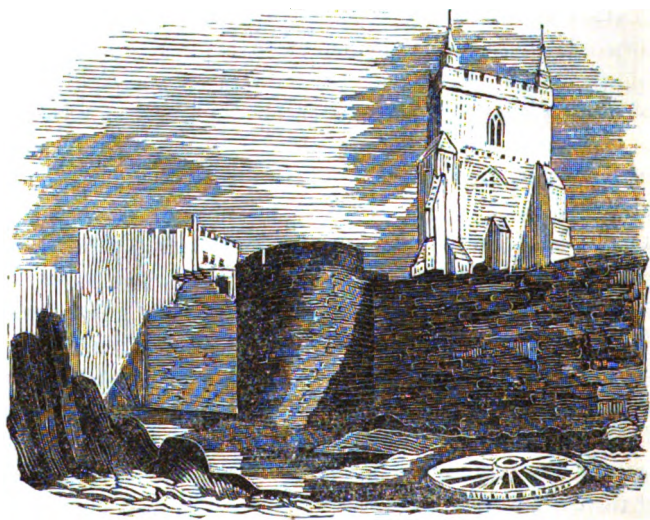
1778 (May 1).—About two o'clock on the morning, the right hon. lord Algernon Percy, received an express from the secretary at war, ordering the Northumberland militia to march to Newcastle and Tyne-mouth barracks. In consequence of which, they marched early in the morning, and on their arrival at Felton, his lordship generously

ordered them refreshment, after which they proceeded, and on the 2nd, arrived in Newcastle, where they were received with the greatest joy by the inhabitants, who expressed a heart-felt pleasure in seeing a PERCY heading Northumbria's martial sons. His lordship marched at the head of them like a true veteran disdaining fatigue, all the road, excepting a mile or two after leaving Morpeth, occasioned by a heavy fall of rain.—*Local Papers*.

May 10.—Susannah Corner, widow, aged 106 years, was buried at Hartlepool.—*Ibid*.

Early this month, a numerous meeting of the nobility and gentry of the counties of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was held at Northumberland-house, to consider of the defence of the coasts of those counties, from the anticipated invasion of the French; it was resolved that immediate application should be made to government, by the duke of Northumberland and lord Darlington, the lord lieutenants, for five regiments, three of militia, and two of the line, besides a regiment of cavalry, to be stationed at Sunderland, Durham, Newcastle, Morpeth, and Alnwick,—two thousand supernumerary stand of arms, and two large ships of war, one to be stationed at the mouth of the harbour at Shields, and the other at Sunderland. These measures were agreed to.—*Chatto's Col*.

May 16.—A subscription was collected at Newcastle for the defence of that town, its port and neighbourhood, which amounted to £1,784. 15s., to which the corporation contributed £1,000.—*Brand*.



PART OF THE ANCIENT FORTIFICATIONS OF NEWCASTLE, NORTH OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,
AS SEEN IN 1818.

1778 (May).—Died at Sunderland, Mary Shield, aged 105 years. She retained the use of all her faculties until the time of her death.—

Local Papers.

This month, as the John and Mary, Captain Cummins, in the coal trade from Newcastle to London, was casting her ballast on Mr. Cookson's quay, at South Shields, some silver coin was accidentally discovered in it, when a number of people were set to work with riddles, and a great many gold and silver coins were found, the latter were the shillings and sixpences of the reign of queen Elizabeth, and the former of the Henrys, value about 17s. each, and very fresh. The ballast had been taken up in the river Thames.—*Ibid.*

July 23.—The right rev. John Egerton, lord bishop of Durham, confirmed 1,800 persons in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, and on the same day, the right worshipful John Hedley, esq., mayor, gave a sumptuous entertainment at the mansion-house, to the bishop, and all the clergy present at the confirmation; his grace the duke of Northumberland, the earls Percy, Darlington, Scarborough, and Fauconberg; the lords Ravensworth, Algernon Percy, and Fielding, and several gentlemen of distinction.—*Brand.*

August 5.—A deed was executed for the incorporation of a society, styled the Union Society, at North Shields, for the insurance of ships belonging to the port of Tyne, to continue for twenty-one years.—

Local Papers.

September 30.—The remains of a young woman were interred at All Saints' church, in Newcastle, who died in the 15th year of her age, and what was very extraordinary the body was six feet four inches in length.—*Ibid.*

October 10.—As some workmen were digging gravel for repairing the highways, near the free school, at Haydon-bridge, they found a human skeleton of an extraordinary size: the skull was entire, and all the teeth in the jaws; two or three dropped out after it got air; the under jaw was very strong and had all the teeth perfect except one in the middle, which seemed to have had some defect before death, though not out.—*Ibid.*

October 20.—Died, at the Low Fell, about two miles from Newcastle, Margaret Fenwick, in the 111th year of her age. She enjoyed good health until within a few days of her death, and retained her senses to the last. A few years before her death, she entertained on new-year's-day, at her own house, 107 of her descendants, consisting of her children, grand-children, and great-grand-children. She indulged a peculiar whim at every return of her birth-day, which was, to add to her stock, a new pewter spoon; so that at her death, she had as many spoons as she had numbered years.—*Ibid.*

1778 (Oct. 28).—A society for the insurance of ships belonging to Newcastle, had their first meeting, and became a body corporate.—*Brand.*

The same day, a new dissenting meeting-house on Maling's Rigg, Sunderland, of which the rev. Mr. Heslop, was pastor, was opened by the rev. James Murray, of Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*

November 6.—A newly invented machine for drawing coals by water was set a-going at Willington colliery, on the river Tyne. Its performances exceeded the most sanguine expectations, uniformly drawing 30 corves, 20 pecks each, in one hour, from a depth of 101 fathoms.—*Ibid.*

November 23.—The new theatre, at Sunderland, was opened with the tragedy of Percy and other entertainments.—*Ibid.*

This year, Mrs. Elizabeth Donnison left £1,500. for the purpose of founding a perpetual school for teaching poor girls belonging to the parish of Sunderland, reading and sewing. Thirty-six girls are taught and clothed; each girl receives a full suit of clothes at christmas, part of a suit at midsummer, and two pair of shoes.—*Surtees.*

Park chapel, Monkwearmouth, was built this year.—*Local Rec.*

This year, a small corps of volunteers was raised in Stockton, for the protection of that town. A similar corps, called *Prussians*, had been raised at the time of the rebellion in 1745, for the same loyal purpose.—*Brewster.*

1779 (Feb. 9).—Died, at Kirkley, near Ponteland, in the 22nd year of his age, Mr. John Kidd, teacher of the mathematics, one of the most surprising geniuses of his age (the celebrated Coughron and Wilkin excepted) that this, or perhaps any other nation can boast of.—*Local Papers.*

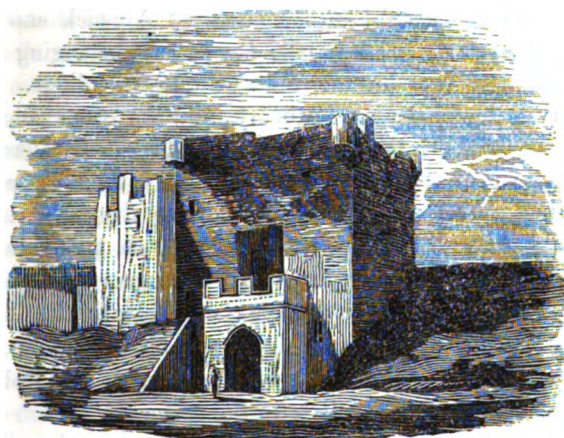
February 15.—On the arrival of the news in Newcastle of the acquittal of admiral Keppel,* there was a grand illumination in that town and Gateshead, during which the bells were kept ringing, accompanied with frequent firing of guns. The next evening an effigy of sir Hugh Palliser, in the naval uniform, was paraded through the several streets of Newcastle, to the Bigg Market, where it was consigned to the flames, amidst the acclamations of a great concourse of spectators. During the whole transaction, the greatest order prevailed. On the 18th, the master and brethren of the trinity-house, in Newcastle, resolved to present the hon. Augustus Keppel, admiral of the blue, with the freedom of that body, which was transmitted to

* Admiral Keppel having been charged by Sir Hugh Palliser with "neglect, incapacity," &c., in the engagement with count D'Orvilliers, off Ushant, on the 27th of July, 1778.

him on April 14th, in an elegant gold box† at their joint expence. March the 22nd, the thanks of the mayor, the aldermen, sheriff, and common council of Newcastle, were ordered to be transmitted to admiral Keppel, on his honourable acquittal, for his long and eminent services to his king and country. The letter was conveyed through the hands of sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and the admiral returned his warmest thanks for the honour done him, in a letter addressed to Hugh Hornby, esq., mayor of Newcastle. Almost every town and village in the two counties, testified their joy by rejoicings and illuminations.—*Local Papers*.

1779 (March 6).—The Anti-gallican, privateer, of Newcastle, sailed from Shields on a six months' cruise against the enemies of Great Britain, being the first that ever sailed from that port, completely fitted and manned.—*Ibid*.

March 24.—The Heart of Oak, privateer, mounting 33 guns, belonging to Newcastle, sailed from Shields on a six months' cruise. She was exceedingly well fitted out, and carried 150 men.—*Ibid*.



TYNEMOUTH CASTLE, EAST FRONT.—1779.

April 10.—During the night, eight of the French prisoners made their escape from their place of confinement at Tynemouth, by breaking through the wall into an uninhabited house, and from thence escaping by a back door. As soon as their flight was discovered, parties of the Northumberland militia, to the number of one hundred

† The inscription on the lid of the box was as follows:—"The gift of the corporation of the Trinity-house, in Newcastle upon Tyne, to the Hon. Augustus Keppel, admiral of the blue, &c. &c., in testimony of their high regard for his many faithful and important services to his country, particularly for his gallant conduct on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778." The admiral returned a letter of thanks dated Audley Street, 21st of April, 1779.

men, were detached to various parts of the country to apprehend them; and about nine o'clock on the following morning, they were all taken in the neighbourhood of Seaton Delaval, and brought back to their old quarters, where they were handcuffed.—*Local Papers*.

1779 (April 30).—Felling colliery, on the river Tyne, belonging to Charles Brandling, esq., was won, when that gentleman gave a plentiful dinner and a hearty regale to the workmen. And on the 4th of May, he gave a grand entertainment at Gosforth-house on the same occasion.—*Ibid*.

May 23.—About two o'clock in the morning, a French frigate of twenty-four guns, two cutters, and a schooner, appeared a little to the southward of Tynemouth, when they fell in with a large fleet of laden colliers and other vessels from Shields, several of which the enemy took. A small brig, called the Mary, mounting only three guns, fought her way through both the cutters for near an hour, and escaped, much shattered in her masts and rigging. A shameful neglect appeared on this occasion in the want of ammunition at the Spanish battery at the mouth of the river.—*Ibid*.

May 28.—On the arrival of the news, at Alnwick castle, of the celebration of earl Percy's nuptials, the cannon belonging that noble edifice, proclaimed in repeated volleys, the joyful tidings. Sir Alexander Gilmore, bart., major Cathcart, and the other officers of the 10th regiment of foot, then in Alnwick, and the gentlemen of the town, in honour of that event, and to testify their esteem for the noble earl, met at the castle, where they were elegantly entertained. The populace were also plentifully regaled with good ale from the castle cellars. A large bon-fire was made near the gateway, and others in the streets and market-place; which, with the illumination of the town afforded a most magnificent and pleasing scene.—*Ibid*.

This month, died at Lairchild, near Alnwick, George Bolam; aged 107 years, he retained his faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.

July 29.—Was launched at Howdon-dock, on the river Tyne, near North Shields, his majesty's frigate, the Syren, of 28 guns, commanded by captain Dodd, and was supposed to be one of the finest frigates in the navy.—*Ibid*.

July.—At the assizes at Durham, a remarkable case was heard. The complaint was against a new device in the art of swindling. Several females had sent letters to sundry gentlemen, that "unless they would send them three or four guineas in a limited time, they would be under the necessity of dubbing them with the honour of Father." Several gentlemen, both married and single, had allowed themselves to be fleeced, rather than bear the rebuffs of their neighbours. However at last, flushed with success, these Amazons attacked

some cold, phlegmatic characters, whose innocence and virtue were not to be laughed out of countenance;—two of these gentlemen brought the action against some of the most noted of the ladies and their amanuenses, who were all sentenced to six months imprisonment, and to stand four times in the pillory—*Univ. Mag.*

1779 (Aug. 14).—A fine full-length portrait of his majesty George III., painted by Allan Ramsay (son of the Scots poet), a present to the town of Newcastle, by sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., was put up in the Guild-hall, over the entrance into the merchants' court. It is now at the west end of the guild-hall, between the portraits of Charles II., and James II.—*Brand.*

August 15.—About one o'clock in the afternoon, the inhabitants of the coast of Northumberland, for upwards of thirty miles in extent, were greatly alarmed by an incessant firing of guns at sea, many being under an idea that the French were attempting a landing. The circumstance was, two French privateers, one of 18 and the other of 24 guns, met with the Content armed ship, captain Roy, belonging to government, of twenty guns, in company with a Greenlandman (for whose hands she was on the look out), about two or three miles off Alnmouth, when a sharp engagement ensued, which lasted near two hours, and was visible all the time to the inhabitants of that place and neighbourhood. At last, the Content compelled the Frenchman to desist and stand off to sea with all the sail they could spread. Had the Greenlandman (the Freelope of Whitby), stood to the Content, the privateers would probably have been taken, as she mounted 14 guns, but being afraid of herself, she run close in shore. During the engagement the people of Alnmouth went to Alnwick, and applied to the duke of Northumberland's agent, who granted them two mounted cannons and a covered waggon from the castle, which they immediately conveyed to the coast, where the whole country joined them, and made a formidable appearance. An express was also sent to Morpeth to lord Charles Montague, commander of the Huntingdon militia, whose drums beat to arms, and the men turned out with the greatest alacrity, but just as they were going to march with two covered waggons with ammunition, another express arrived, with an account, that the Content had beat off the two privateers. On this occasion a very laudable spirit appeared in the young men at Morpeth, who mustered, and agreed to march with and support the militia to the utmost of their power, in the defence of their country. The Content had one man killed, named Lashells, belonging to Newcastle; two were wounded, one of them had both his arms shot off; the other was wounded in the arm.—*Local Papers.*

August 29.—Died at Cramlington, in Northumberland, Mrs. Hall,

aged 101 years, widow of Mr. Hall, who had been a considerable farmer there.—*Local Papers.*

1779 (Sep. 20).—The waggon's began loading the coals from the new won colliery on Walldridge Fell, near Chester-le-Street, (being the first from that colliery belonging to William Jolliffe, esq.), to Fatfield staith. Some thousands of people attended, preceded by a band of music, colours flying, &c. In the afternoon they returned to the houses near the colliery, where an excellent cold dinner was provided, consisting of a sheep roasted whole, six sheep in quarters, and half an ox, which was washed down with 18 barrels of good ale. The bells at Chester were rung at intervals during the day.—*Ibid.*

September 23.—Paul Jones appeared on the coast of Northumberland, after having made a regular progress round Scotland. He had become so notorious, that his appearance on this coast, where he lingered a whole day and captured a sloop, caused a great consternation. It happened a few days before, that the duke of Northumberland's audit had been held at the castle, and the whole of the rents, mostly paid in gold, were deposited there, these would have afforded a grand prize for the pirate, had he been aware of the circumstance. The bailiff at the castle was most firmly persuaded that Paul knew of the audit, and had come expressly for the purpose of carrying off the cash, as he had done at lord Selkirk's in Scotland, a short time before. Under this impression, he prevailed on the commander of the Huntingdonshire militia to garrison the castle, and prepare some of the cannon for its defence during the night. Accordingly the gates were barricaded and every preparation made for repelling an assault, but, however, the castle was left unmolested, as Paul had proceeded on his voyage, and on the above day, meeting with the Baltic fleet near Flamborough head, on the coast of Yorkshire, convoyed by the Serapis frigate of 44 guns, commanded by captain Pearson, and the countess of Scarborough, armed ship of 20 guns, commanded by captain Thomas Piercy, a very severe action took place, in which Jones was victorious, and the Serapis and Countess of Scarborough were taken, but the convoy escaped. The result was one of the most memorable naval actions upon record in the annals of the navy, both sides shewing the most resolute and desperate courage, until the English, overpowered by numbers, were obliged to surrender. Jones commanded an American ship of war called the Bon Homme Richard, of 40 guns, and 375 men; a frigate called the Alliance, of 40 guns, and 300 men; the Pallas, another frigate, (French) of 30 guns, and 275 men; and the Vengeance, an armed brig of 12 guns, and 70 men.—*Ibid.*

November 9.—The following is an extract of a letter from Charlton, near Bellingham, in Northumberland, of this date—"It is no

more extraordinary than true, that about five ducks of the half species, belonging to this place, being given to a carrier last Thursday (Nov. 4), in order to be sold at Newcastle; and, on being exhibited in the pullen-market, one of them made its escape, and the very identical duck arrived here on the morning of the third day after its flight." The distance is thirty miles.—*Local Papers*.

1779 (Nov. 15).—George Clark, a gormandizing eccentric, of Newcastle (well known by the name of *Skipper Clark*), was found dead in the Folly-chare, in Sandgate, Newcastle, through want and the inclemency of the weather. On searching his room a few days after his death, 95 guineas were found concealed in a large marrow-bone, also £24. in Portugal gold, in a different part of the room. He had been during one part of his life, bellman of Newcastle, and for many years before his death apparently the most meagre and indigent mendicant that ever travelled the streets.—*Local Rec.*

December 2.—In a very heavy gale of wind, many stacks of chimnies were blown down at Sunderland, and ships driven from their moorings. The east part of the church-yard wall was also blown down, and two men buried for some time in the ruins: one of them named Muckle, was killed on the spot. At the High Shield, near Hexham, a part of a house was blown down, and Mr. and Mrs. Bell, with four children, were under the ruins near half an hour; yet, providentially, they were all saved.—*Local Papers*.

December 8.—About six o'clock in the evening, a fire broke out in a flax-loft belonging to Mr. T. Kidd, at the foot of the passage leading to the meeting-house in the Groat-market, Newcastle, which, from its confined situation, and a spirit-cellar underneath it, exhibited an aspect truly alarming to the neighbourhood. It continued burning with great violence till after eight o'clock, and consumed almost all the flax, together with the roof and floors of the building. The liquors in the cellar were, by the exertions of the neighbours, happily preserved.—*Ibid.*

This year, Close house, in Northumberland, the seat of Calverley Bewicke, esq., was built. At this time, an old chapel, which stood on the site of the bow-window at the east end of the house was pulled down.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

A presbyterian meeting-house on the Bank-top in the township of Westoe, near South Shields, was this year built. It was considerably enlarged in 1817.—*Local Rec.*

A fat ox, bred by Mr. Thomas Hill, of Blackwell, was killed at Darlington, and sold by a butcher there for £109. 11s. 6d. This animal weighed 160 stone, 10lbs. (at 14 pounds to the stone) of which eleven stone was tallow. He was rising six years old, and measured

six feet in stature ; was in length, nine feet five-and-a-half inches ; and over the shoulders, two feet ten inches broad ; he was in girth, before the shoulders nine feet seven-and-a-half inches ; behind the shoulders, ten feet six inches ; and over the loins, nine feet six-and-three-quarter inches.—*Guide to Croft.*

1779.—A fine frigate, called the *Bellona*, was built for government at Stockton. Soon after she was launched, she was ordered for Hull, and on her first voyage from thence, was unfortunately lost in the Texel.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

In repairing the cathedral of Durham, a stone spout was thrown from the battlements, on the under side of which was the accompanying inscription. The upper side was hollowed ; by being bedded in



the lime, the characters have been well preserved. There had been a raised rib upon the centre of the stone, which the workmen had chiselled down. Hutchinson supposes this to have been the remains of the cross of St. Ethelwold, which was brought from the church yard of Lindisfarn, and placed in the cemetery garth of Durham. Leland saw it and describes it as being seven feet long, but he was unable to read the inscription. It shared the sacrilegious destruction which deans Horn and Whittingham impiously committed on our religious antiquities. Mr. Pegge is of opinion that the two upper lines make clearly a leonine verse, and afford a full sense.

“ Per crucis hauc formam

Sanctæ crucis accipe normam.”

The other two lines are complete in themselves ; but the data are not sufficient to guess how to fill them up.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

1780 (March 10).—Died, at Fatfield, near Chester-le-street, Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson, aged 107 years.

March 18.—About five o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in Northumberland house, London, belonging to his grace the duke of Northumberland, which consumed all the apartments on that side next the Strand, and a great part of the gallery within the gates. It was with the greatest difficulty that the firemen could keep the flames from reaching the dwelling apartments, as the wind blew in that direction. About nine o'clock the fire was luckily got under. The

rebuilding the wing which was burnt down was estimated at £10,000. besides the loss of great part of his grace's valuable library, and several capital pictures.—*Local Rec.*

1780 (June 10).—Died, in the 100th year of his age, Matthew Swinhoe, of the trinity-house, in Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*

July 10.—Died, at an advanced age, in Newcastle, Mrs. Gomeldon, a gentlewoman of liberal education, a great adept in natural history and philosophy, and a generous benefactress to the poor. This lady published a work entitled "*The Medley*," for the benefit of the Lying-in-hospital, and for which she received the following compliment:—"The Governors of the Lying-in-hospital present their thanks to Mrs. Gomeldon for the large benefaction of £53. 10s. 7d. being the net produce arising from the publication of *The Medley*.—Newcastle, December 3rd, 1768." Mrs. Gomeldon had a portrait of herself engraved, in size about 15 inches high, by 9 inches broad, copies of which were distributed amongst her acquaintance. She had remarkably fine teeth which she carefully preserved as they fell out through age, and had their enamel set in rings which were presented to her immediate friends. She fell in love with the name of captain James Cook, and wished to accompany him round the world when he went his first voyage.—*J. Bell's Col. &c.*

October 2.—The right rev. John Egerton, lord bishop of Durham, was pleased to revive the ancient corporation of that city, by granting the burgesses a new charter—the old one granted by bishop Matthew, in 1602, having for some years before, been dissolved, and the burgesses rendered incapable of acting under it,—when John Drake Bainbridge, esq. was elected mayor, and the following gentlemen aldermen: Thomas Bainbridge, Joseph Airey, Ralph Bowser, Richard Shuttleworth, John Lowther, Thomas Dunn, John Potts, Christopher Hopper, John Starforth, William Kirton, John Hall, and William Archer, esqrs.; William Amber, esq., recorder; Martin Wilkinson, esq., town-clerk. The greatest demonstrations of joy were shewn in the city upon this occasion. In the evening, the mayor gave a grand entertainment in the town-hall, which was beautifully illuminated. The succession of mayors under the new charter is as follows:—

John Drake Bainbridge, appointed by charter, October 2, 1780.—Ralph Bowser, elected October 1, 1781.—Richard Shuttleworth, September 30, 1782.—William Kirton, October 6, 1783.—Thomas Dunn, October 4, 1784.—John Starforth, October 3, 1785.—Christopher Hopper, October 2, 1786.—John Potts, October 1, 1787.—John James, October 6, 1788.—George Finch, October 5, 1789.—Thomas Chipchase, October 4, 1790.—William Shields, October 3, 1791.—Gilbert Starforth, October 1, 1792.—Thomas

Austin, September 30, 1793.—John Drake Bainbridge, October 6, 1794.—William Kirton, October 5, 1795.—John Starforth, October 3, 1796.—John Hutchinson, October 2, 1797.—Christopher Hopper, October 1, 1798, refusing to accept the office, was fined ten guineas, and on the day following John Potts was elected.—John James, September 30, 1799.—George Finch, October 6, 1800.—Martin Dunn, October 5, 1801.—Thomas Chipchase, the younger, October 4, 1802.—Thomas Chipchase, October 3, 1803.—John Dixon, October 1, 1804.—William Shields, September 30, 1805.—Thomas Austin, October 6, 1806.—Thomas Dunn, October 5, 1807.—John Hutchinson, October 3, 1808.—Martin Dunn, October 2, 1809.—Thomas Wilkinson, October 1, 1810.—Thomas Chipchase, the younger, September 30, 1811.—John Dixon, October 5, 1812.—Thomas Dunn, October 4, 1813.—Thomas Wilkinson, October 3, 1814.—Rev. Edward Davison, October 2, 1815.—Thomas Austin, September 30, 1816.—John Hutchinson, October 6, 1817.—Edward Shippardson, October 5, 1818.—Richard Kirton, October 4, 1819.—Robert Waugh, October 2, 1820.—Thomas Chipchase, the younger, October 1, 1821.—John Wetherell Hays, September 30, 1822.—Ralph Hutchinson, October 6, 1823.—William Shields, the younger, October 4, 1824.—John Hutchinson, October 3, 1825.—William Stoker, October 2, 1826.—Robert Ovington, October 1, 1827.—Robert Robson, October 6, 1828.—John Wolfe, October 5, 1829.—Thomas Chipchase, October 4, 1830.—John Dixon, October 3, 1831.—John Hall, October 1, 1832.—James Young, September 30, 1833.—George Robson, October, 1834. Mr. Robson continued in office until the period of the first election of mayor under the Municipal Reform Act, in January, 1836.



CHAPTER XII.



THE 25th of October being the anniversary of the accession of king George III, when he entered into the twenty-first year of his reign, was observed in Newcastle with great rejoicings. The 10th regiment of foot was reviewed on the town-moor, by lieutenant-general lord Adam Gordon. The regiment made a very fine appearance, and performed what was prescribed with precision.

The right worshipful the mayor, aldermen, and sheriff, went to St. Nicholas' church, where the rev. Mr. Ellison preached an excellent sermon on the occasion. They afterwards returned to the Sandhill, where sir George Savile's West Riding of Yorkshire militia were drawn up, and fired three excellent vollies, when his majesty's health was drunk, amidst the acclamations of the people, after which, Mr. Mayor gave a grand entertainment at the mansion-house, to lord Adam Gordon, commander-in-chief, of the district, the earl of Scarborough, sir George Savile, lord Lumley, the officers of both corps, and many of the principal gentlemen in the neighbourhood. In the evening there was an assembly.—*Local Papers.*

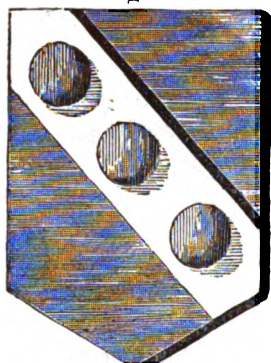
November 11.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Ravens, aged 100 years, who, for upwards of sixty years, followed the business of mid-wife in that place.—*Ibid.*

November 13.—The workmen began to pull down the houses on the west side of the bridge at Newcastle, for the purpose of widening the entrance thereto.—*Ibid.*

December 8.—A slight shock of an earthquake was felt at Newcastle, by which the houses, windows, chairs, tables, &c., were thrown

into a violent agitation for about two seconds, attended during the time with a remarkable noise. It occasioned much consternation, but no damage was done by it.—*Genl's. Mag.*

1780 (Dec. 9).—A shock of an earthquake was felt at Stockton and the neighbourhood.—*Local Papers.*



This year, the old market cross, in the city of Durham, erected by Thomas Emmer-son, esq., of London, whose arms were placed on the west side, with the date 1617, becoming ruinous, the corporation ordered it to be taken down, and with the materials was erected the piazza where the markets were subsequently held. This cross which had a large pillar in the middle, ornamented with a dial, stood in the market place, near the pant or reservoir.—*Surtees.*

The old chapel, at Tweedmouth, was this year pulled down, and a new gothic building erected in its stead.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

This year, died at Gateshead, baron van Haake, a native of Silesia, who had come thither for the purpose of extracting tar from coal.—*Surtees.*

About this year, the church at Hunstanworth, Durham, which is a neat small structure, was almost entirely rebuilt.—*Hutchinson.*

About this year, an immense number of copper nails, an iron hammer, and other implements of a smith's shop, were found buried in small ashes of coal, within the foundation of a small circular building, on the side of Watling-street, near Low Woodside, about three miles south of Ebchester. These were clearly Roman implements.—*Ibid.*

1781 (March 13).—Was launched at Monkwearmouth shore, a beautiful frigate, called the Achilles, the sole property of James Stafford, esq., mounting twenty-eight nine-pounders.—*Local Papers.*

April.—Died, at Broom, near Durham, Elizabeth Linsley, aged 104 years.—*Ibid.*

May 1.—The new baths, without the Westgate, Newcastle, built from a plan of Mr. Cranson (formerly an actor belonging to the Newcastle company of comedians), were opened for the accommodation of the public. The buildings, area, and walks, being all elegantly and completely fitted up.—*Brand.*

June 5.—The foundation stone of a large handsome house and offices was laid at Howick, Northumberland. The building was raised by the first sir Henry Grey, and was attached to the end of "The little pile," or tower of Howick, mentioned by Leland. This man-



HOWICK HALL.

sion was taken down in 1787, when the present elegant structure was commenced. Payne and other architects gave designs for it, but it was chiefly executed under the direction of Mr. Newton of Newcastle. A few years ago, the internal arrangements were improved, and the furniture and decorations almost entirely renewed, by the present noble possessor, who has also joined the wings to the centre by two additions, the fronts of which form the arcs of a quadrant.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

1781 (June 7).—The *Argo*, a new ship-of-war, pierced for forty-four guns, was launched from Howdon dock. It was the largest vessel that had been launched on the river Tyne.—*Local Papers.*

June 16.—The East York militia marched into camp at Ayton Banks, on Gateshead Fell, and on the 18th, were joined by the South Lincoln militia from Tynemouth and Sunderland. The camp broke up on the 29th of October.—*Ibid.*

June.—A whale was cast on shore within the manor of Easington, Durham, which measured in length sixteen yards, two feet and seven inches, and was in circumference at the fins fourteen yards. The fin was in length four yards and two feet, and the breadth one yard and six inches; the breadth of the forked part of the tail was five yards and ten inches.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

August 20.—John Tully was executed at Durham, for robbing and violently beating (leaving him for dead) Mr. Mills, of Moormills.—*Local Papers.*

1781 (August).—This month, his grace the duke of Northumberland was admitted to his freedom in the company of butchers, of the city of Durham, by patrimonial right, when he made a present of a valuable piece of plate for the use of the said company. September 17th, on his grace's arrival at Durham from Alnwick castle, he was addressed by John Drake Bainbridge, esq., mayor of that city, who administered the oath of freedom to him of the said city, in the presence of the warden of the company of butchers, he was attended by the city waits, and saluted by an harmonious peal of bells; to the waits and bell-ringers he gave a handsome present, and a liberal donation to the poor.—*Local Papers*.

Oct. 10.—About twelve o'clock at night, a fire broke out in a brew-house, in the Market-place, at Rothbury, which burnt till three o'clock in the morning, and destroyed sixteen houses, mostly thatched.—*Ibid*.

November 20.—Margaret Tinkler, midwife, was executed near Durham, for the crime of using or recommending certain means to destroy an infant, which was effected, and finally with the death of Jane Parkinson, the mother. Before she left the gaol for execution, she confessed to a worthy clergyman, and Mr. Smith, surgeon, in Newcastle, then present, that she only recommended the means, but that the act itself was done by the deceased woman. On the dissection of Margaret Tinkler, at a place called Whitesmocks, near Durham, by Mr. Smith and Mr. Ward, surgeons, in Durham, two long black double wire pins, as used at that time in women's hair, were found in her belly, which it was supposed she had swallowed to destroy her life.—*Ibid*.

The chancel of Alnwick church, was this year repaired by the duke of Northumberland, and may be justly styled superb. He also gave a set of silver plate for the communion service.—*Mackenzie's Northd*.

This year, in the freestone quarries at Durham, which were wrought for the new bridge there, was found an entire fish, in figure like the bream, enclosed in a large block of stone. On separating it, the fins and tail were broke off.—*Local Papers*.

1782 (Jan. 7).—About twelve o'clock at night, a fire broke out in a ship in Sunderland harbour, close to Mr. Thornhill's quay, and having her full complement of stores on board, with the guns loaded, the inhabitants and soldiers could give her no assistance, so that as the fire proceeded, her guns were discharged, and at last it reached the powder-room, when she blew up.—*Ibid*.

January 28.—Died, the rev. James Murray, minister of the High-bridge meeting-house, Newcastle. He was the author of "*Sermons to Ministers of State*," "*Sermons to Asses*," "*History of the Churches of England and Scotland*," "*History of the American War*," "*Travels of*

the Imagination," "*Lectures to Lords Spiritual*," "*Lectures on Genesis*," "*Lectures on the Revelation of John the Divine*," and many other curious and valuable publications. Mr. Murray was a native of Fauns, in Roxburghshire, in Scotland, where he was born about the year 1732 or 1733. In 1761 he came to Alnwick, in Northumberland, and officiated as assistant to the rev. J. Sayers, of the Bondgate meeting-house; and was invited to Newcastle in 1764. There are engraved portraits of this divine prefixed to his "*American War*," &c. Mr. Murray was father of Mr. John Murray, surgeon, long an active member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle.—*J. Bell's Col. &c.*

1782 (Feb. 19).—Died, at the Mill-house, near Haltwhistle, Mrs. Margaret Smith, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

February 27.—A very high wind blew down the roof of the flint glass-house, belonging to Messrs. Williams and Co., in the Close, Newcastle, which, falling upon the furnace, soon caught fire, and burnt with great violence, until the whole building, except a gable end, was destroyed.—*Ibid.*

March 4.—Died, in the Friars, Newcastle, John Manners, shoemaker, aged 107 years.—*Ibid.*

March 10.—There was a great fall of snow, and next morning a very heavy rain, with a strong fresh wind, which carried off the snow, and raised the river Tyne higher than was in remembrance, except the flood of 1771. The rapidity of the current threw down Ridley-hall bridge, five arches of Hexham bridge, and left the remaining arches in a very tottering situation; and also rendered Haydon-bridge impassible. One man lost his life, who by imprudently attempting to catch some wood in a rivulet, near Simonburn, fell into the river and was drowned. As Mr. Harbottle of Hexham Grange, his son, and two of his men, were endeavouring to save some sheep grazing on the Haughs, the water surrounded them, and they, by getting on a tree (where they sat from nine in the morning till eight at night, before they were relieved), narrowly escaped with their lives. Upwards of fifty light colliers, lying under Tynemouth castle, were obliged to cut away or slip their anchors, and drive out to sea.—*Ibid.*

March 11.—The Wansbeck, at Morpeth, rose about twelve feet above its usual level at the north arch of the old bridge.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

March 15.—Was launched at Monkwearmouth shore, a beautiful frigate called the *Bucephalus*, mounting thirty-two guns, belonging to James Stafford, esq., built by Mr. Thomas Dixon, of that place.—*Local Papers.*

1782 (March).—This month, died at Darlington, Durham, John Nichols, a labouring man, aged 109 years.—*Local Papers*.



May 20.—Died, at his house, in the Bigg-market, Newcastle, John Bover, esq., captain in the navy, and regulating captain of that port. On May 23rd, his remains were interred in St. Nicholas' church, with extraordinary military honours, as a testimony of his meritorious services to his king and country. On this occasion the East York and Westmoreland militias, with their bands joined, marched from the parade to the house of the deceased, the rank

and file then divided, and lined the street to the church, when the procession began with the grenadiers (muskets reversed), the beadles of St. John's and St. Nicholas' with covered staves; bands of music playing the dead march, the drums covered with crape; the deceased's boatswain; the crew of his barge, two and two; mutes; his servant; the corpse; the pall borne by eight naval officers in their uniforms; lieutenant Cuthbert Adamson, R. N., chief mourner; other mourners; the ensigns of the militia, and of the 26th (lord Adam Gordon's) regiment from Tynemouth barracks; lieutenants; captains; colonels; general Beckwith and lord Adam Gordon; the sheriff, aldermen, and recorder, two and two; the right worshipful the mayor, town marshal, two serjeants at mace, an officer, and a battalion. After the interment, the grenadiers who were drawn up in the church-yard, fired three vollies. Thus did the naval, military, and civil authorities, with many thousands of persons of all ranks, unite to pay the last tribute to the remains of a good and gallant officer, and a worthy man.—*Ibid*.

This month, on the arrival of the news of Admiral Rodney having gained a complete victory over the French fleet in the West Indies, there were great rejoicings at all the towns and most of the villages in Durham and Northumberland.—*Ibid*.

May 28.—Died, William Emerson, the celebrated mathematician and philosopher. He was born at Hurworth, on the 14th of May, 1701. From his father, Dudley Emerson, who was a school-master, he received the first rudiments of his education, and from him he also inherited a small estate of sixty or seventy pounds a year. It was not until he was about twenty years of age, that he first displayed a predilection for scientific studies, and he then placed himself under masters at Newcastle and York, for improvement. After his return to Hurworth, he commenced a school, but this he soon resign-

ed, being probably driven to it by the natural warmth of his temper. Towards his thirty second or thirty third year, he married a niece of Dr. Johnson, the rector of Hurworth, and seems about that time to have devoted himself entirely to mathematical studies, contenting himself with the income of his paternal property. In his forty-second year, he published his work on *Fluxions*, which met with universal approbation, and secured its author a place among the first mathematicians of the day. This was followed by the publication of various other books, the last of which appeared in 1776. He was also a constant correspondent of the Ladies Diary, the *Miscellanea Curiosa Mathematica*, and other periodical works, sometimes under the anagrammatic signature *Merones*, and sometimes under the still more whimsical one of *Philofluentimechanalgegeomastrolongo*, and probably under several others. His first publications did not meet with immediate encouragement, but about the year 1763, he was recommended by his great admirer and friend, Edward Montagu, esq., (who was the owner of an estate at Eryholme, and sometimes visited that neighbourhood) to Mr. John Nourse, a bookseller in London, who had been educated at one of the universities, and was himself a skilful mathematician. Mr. Nourse was so highly sensible of Emerson's superior abilities, that "he engaged him, on very liberal terms, to furnish a regular course of the mathematics for the use of young students;" and in the summer of 1763, Emerson went up to London to settle and fulfil his engagement. Even in London he could not be idle; besides correcting his sheets for the press, he took lodgings with a watch manufacturer, near Smithfield, that he might improve himself, during his stay, in that branch of mechanical science;—this elementary course was completed in 1770. During the greatest part of his life, he enjoyed strong and uninterrupted health; but as he advanced in years he was afflicted with the stone and gravel to an excruciating degree. Towards the year 1781, being sensible of his approaching dissolution, he sold the whole of his mathematical library to a bookseller at York. As he grew weaker, the violence of the disease abated, and he died, apparently, without much pain, in the eighty-first year of his age. He had no children. A monument has been erected to his memory in Hurworth church-yard. His person was robust, rough, and masculine; his dress, slovenly and mean; his manners, studiously vulgar and abrupt; his temper, positive and impatient of contradiction, and his conversation was disgustingly interlarded with oaths. His way of life was as singular as his person, frequently employing himself in the meanest labours and occupations; ale was his favourite liquor, and of this he would sometimes consume an enormous quantity, sitting in a pot house for successive days and nights, among company of the low-

est description. Angling was one of his favourite diversions; and whilst pursuing this amusement he would stand up to his middle in water for several hours together. He always walked up to London when he had any work to publish, and was careful to revise every sheet himself. The singularity of his dress, and figure, together with his character for profound learning, and knowledge more than human, caused him to be considered by ignorant and illiterate people in the neighbourhood as a *cunning man or conjurer*. This opinion of his skill in the black art was of service in defending his property from depredators, and he therefore found it impolitic to discourage it; but he was apt to lose his patience, and indulge the natural sallies of his temper, when he was applied to for the recovery of stolen goods, or to investigate the secrets of futurity. He was not an original genius, but possessed a penetrating intellect and sound judgment on mathematical subjects; and though he would assume an air of negligence touching his abilities, as if not conscious of them, he had an infinite pride in them. His honesty and integrity were unimpeachable; but though not an atheist, he (as Hutchinson reports) 'affected an appearance of infidelity in religious matters:'—and, melancholy to relate, employed the strong sense implanted in him by the Almighty for the good of his fellow creatures, in raising pitiful cavils against the consistency of the holy scriptures, and striving to blast those glorious hopes which alone are capable of cheering the human heart under the trying turns and calamities of life.—*A Guide to Dinsdale*.

1782 (June 24).—Died of the influenza, at Stella, in the parish of Ryton, Margaret Bowey, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers*.

June 25.—The East York militia marched from Newcastle into camp, at Ayton Banks, on Gateshead Fell, and were shortly after joined by the North York militia, commanded by sir Ralph Milbanke. The camp broke up on the 11th of November.—*Ibid*.

June.—Died, in the poor house, at Gateshead, Mary Cramer, aged 120 years.—*Ibid*.

In the summer of this year, a man near 80 years of age, and his wife, made one of the caverns under Marsden rocks, near South Shields, their place of residence. In the early part of his life, he had been a miner, at Allenheads, but having removed to Shields, to avoid the charge of house-keeping, he and his wife formed the resolution to retire to one of these caves, which they furnished. The romantic situation of the place, and the singularity of the event, drew numbers of people to visit them, whom they accommodated with refreshments; even ladies and gentlemen in carriages drove to the place, and partook of the old couple's cheer.—*Ibid*.

September 14.—The following occurs in a Newcastle Paper:—

“A WIND-MILL in the centre of the Town of Newcastle.”

“To be let, the OLD CASTLE, in the Castle Garth, upon which with the greatest convenience and advantage, may be erected a WIND-MILL, for the purpose of grinding Corn, and Bolting flour, or making Oil, &c. There is an exceeding good Spring of Water within the Castle, which renders it a very eligible situation for a Brewery, or any Manufactory that requires a constant supply of water. The proprietor, upon proper terms, will be at a considerable part of the expence. Enquire of Mr. Fryer, in Westgate-street, Newcastle.”



CHAPEL IN THE CASTLE, AT NEWCASTLE.

1782 (Oct. 9).—A fine new frigate, called the *Madona*, was launched at Howdon dock, upon the river Tyne, which was capable of mounting above 30 guns.—*Local Papers*.

October.—Died, at Morpeth, Barbara Softley, aged 105 years.—*Ibid*.

October.—An explosion of gas took place in Wallsend colliery, by which one man lost his life. The coal being set on fire, the colliery was drowned to extinguish it.—*Ibid*.

1782 (October).—Buried Thomas Claverin, of Hemscott-hill (Northumberland), aged 101.—*Widdrington Par. Reg.*

This year, the outside of the chapel of St. Thomas à Beckett, at the Bridge end, Newcastle, was hewn over, and a new steeple built, the old one being taken down to make the passage on to the bridge more spacious.—*Picture of Newc.*

Some repairs were begun to be made on the walls of Berwick, this year, which were continued from time to time, until the year 1786. Four years afterwards they were completely finished.—*Fuller.*

This year, the Fauld pit, at Gateshead, exploded, by which accident four lives were lost. These unfortunate men were all that were down the pit at the time of the explosion. Three of the bodies were got, the other still remains in the mine. The coals worked here were called the Hopewell. The colliery was on the east side of the High street of Gateshead, in what is called the High ward. It had two shafts, both of which are nearly filled up, and their brinks overgrown with weeds and shrubs.—*Local Papers, &c.*

This year, died at Newcastle, Mary Driffield, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

On repairing Tynemouth castle this year, for a place of arms and depository of stores, for the protection of the port of Tyne, and of the adjacent coasts of Northumberland and Durham, Major Durnford discovered two Roman inscribed stones. They had formed foundation stones, at the depth of six feet from the surface, of some ancient building, north of the castle, and probably the remains of the original religious building erected soon after the introduction of the faith into Britain. The lower part of the first is, by whatever accident, much defaced, and the top is quite flat; most probably its focus has been sheared off in order to accommodate the stone to the foundation of the building in which it was found. It is dedicated to Jupiter by Ælius Rufus a præfect in the 4th cohort of the Lingones—a people of Champagne in France. On one side it bears an ox's head between the usual censer and axe, and below the sacrificing knife. On the other is the patera between two snakes. The other altar has created much discussion, the conclusion however seems to have been arrived at, in the following:—"Cypum cum basi, et Templum, fecit Caius Julius Verus Maximinus Legionis sextæ victrices ex voto."—that is—"Caius Julius Verus Maximinus of the sixth victorious Legion according to a vow, erected this Cippus, with its base, and a temple." The Cippi were columns erected on pedestals or bases as boundary marks, memorials of affection or events, or for many other purposes. Some times, when placed in temples, they were surmounted with a statue of the deity to whom the temple was dedicated. When



Christianity became the established religion of Europe, crosses were erected for purposes similar to those for which the Romans used Cippi.—*Brand. Hodgson. Arch. Æl.*

1783 (Feb 1).—The Newcastle Fire-office for the assurance of houses, buildings, goods, wares, and merchandises, from loss or damage by fire, was first opened in apartments at the head of the Side in that town.—*Local Papers.*

February 6.—Died, in London, Lancelot Brown (who, from his common application of the word *capability* to the capacities for improvement in the features and scenery of places where he was employed in his profession of a landscape gardener, was most commonly known by the name of CAPABILITY BROWN). He was descended from the Browns of Ravenscleugh, in Redesdale, born at Kirkharle, and baptized there August 30. 1716. He was educated at Camboe, and at first employed in his profession as a gardener under sir William Loraine, who had a great taste for building and planting. He was also for some time employed as gardener to Mr. Shaftoe of Benwell. In 1739, he left his native county, and was soon after “employed at Stowe in a very humble situation, whence he rose by degrees to be head gardener, in which situation he continued till 1750. It is generally supposed that his first specimens of landscape gardening were at Stowe; but we are *assured* that lord Cobham restricted him to the kitchen and flower gardens. Though his lordship would not permit him to try experiments in his own grounds, yet he recommended him to the duke of Grafton, at Wakefield lodge in Northamptonshire, where he directed the forming of a large lake. This laid the founda-

tion of his fame and fortune: for the undertaking being successfully executed, he was presented through the medium of lord Cobham, with the honourable situation of head gardener at Windsor and Hampton court. He now became very popular, and his advice was regularly sought by those gentlemen who were disposed to make alterations in their parks and pleasure grounds. Previous to his leaving Stowe, he married a young woman of the village named Mary Holland."—*Beauties of Eng. and Wales.*

1783 (Feb. 13).—The sailors at Sunderland having got liberty to go on shore, and having a list of persons who had informed against them or their brethren, assembled in a great body, went to the houses of the informers, some of whom had luckily left their homes. Those they found, they mounted on a pole, and carried them through the principal streets exposed to the insults of an enraged populace; the women, in particular, bedaubed them plentifully with dirt, &c. Some constables interposing, had their staffs taken from them and themselves beaten. About six o'clock in the evening their numbers had so increased, that the drums of the North York militia beat to arms, the regiment paraded the streets, when the mob dispersed. But the next morning they assembled in greater numbers, and were proceeding to extremities, when the military again appearing, with two justices at their head, the whole dispersed.—*Local Papers.*

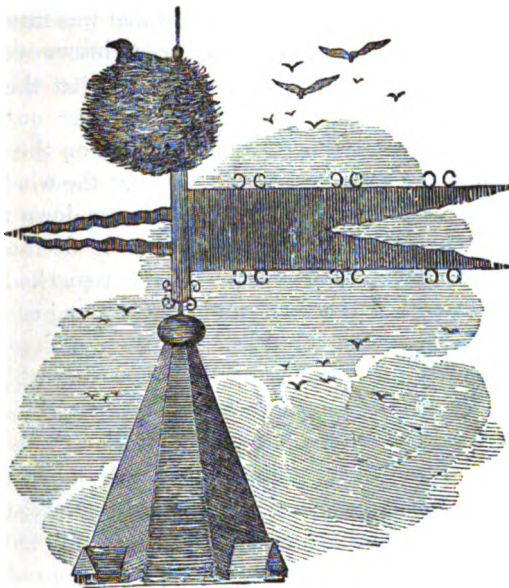
This year, an organ purchased by a voluntary subscription of the parishioners, was erected in the church of St. Andrew, Newcastle. An order of the common-council had been made in 1776, to establish a salary of £20. per annum, for the organist of the organ intended to be set up in that church. The same year, the parishioners purchased a piece of waste ground, lying on the west side of the church-yard, to enlarge their burial ground. This was consecrated by the bishop of Clonfort in the month of September, 1786.—*Brand.*

March 8.—Died at Hallowell, near Seaton Delaval, in Northumberland, Mary Sharp, a widow, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

March 21.—At Stockton, on the evening of this day, the sky being perfectly serene and clear, and the stars sparkling with uncommon lustre, about 8 o'clock an Aurora Borealis stretched from the western edge of the horizon, across the hemisphere, a little to the south of the zenith, quite to the eastern edge, forming a most beautiful luminous arch; it shone with a constant steady light (being quite free from that tremulous motion which usually attend the Aurora Borealis) for above three quarters of an hour, and then began to decrease gradually, and almost equally in every part, till it totally vanished a little before 9 o'clock; the eastern parts were visible rather longer than the rest of the immense arch of light.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

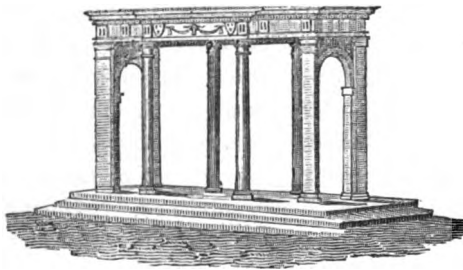
1783 (March 26).—Died, in Gateshead, Mrs. Mary Tate, aged 116 years.—*Local Papers.*

March.—A pair of crows built their nest upon the top of the tube



of the vane on the Exchange at Newcastle. The above representation is copied from an original sketch. It is very different indeed to that given by Mr. Brand in his history of Newcastle, which seems to have no support whatever from the spire, and is utterly at variance with his description, for the place on which he places his crow's nest is stationary, and consequently cannot turn with the wind. The following correct and interesting description, together with a sketch of the spire, &c. taken at the time were very kindly given to me by a gentleman (since deceased), who possessed an original account of the progress of the crows, and which was never before published. "During the progress of the work, the crows experienced many interruptions. Sometimes when their nest was half erected, it would be destroyed by other crows in their absence, seemingly with the most inveterate hostility, to prevent which, one remained as sentry over the building, while the other was abroad in search of forage or materials; till at length, after many severe conflicts, by dint of courage, industry, and perseverance, they overcame every difficulty and finished their plan; in order to understand which, it must be observed, that the vane was affixed to a hollow metallic tube which turned round on an iron spire fixed in the centre of the summit of the pinnacle, and round this (at

the top and bottom) was an ornamented scroll, thus, upon which with very great art and ingenuity, the crows laid their foundation :—viz. spars and rafters whose ends rested upon each other, and then others upon them, but somewhat longer, especially on the side of the tube directly opposite to the vane, which was intended to contain the body of the nest ; then smaller pieces interwoven therewith, and tightly wattled together round the tube, so that the nest turned with the vane, and let the wind blow from whatever quarter, it was continually direct against the nest, still supported on the opposite side by the spire and tube before mentioned, so that the wind could never discompose it or blow it down, unless it had blown down the vane and perhaps the pinnacle also. It might therefore be deemed a masterpiece in mechanics and architecture. It was remarked, that in the succeeding year there was a severe storm of frost and snow, when the Tyne was three times frozen over in one winter, a circumstance not before remembered by the oldest person living, during which the crows had a comfortable habitation, and having prolonged their residence there for some years, they, all on a sudden, without any visible cause or molestation, quitted their wonderful building, and never resorted to it again. A short time subsequent to their departure, the exchange took fire, which, had they remained, might probably have destroyed them as well as their curious erection.” They attempted to build it again the year following, but other crows, with the most determined opposition, prevented them ; however, in the years 1785, 1786, 1787, and 1788, the same crows built on the same singular place, and succeeded each year in hatching and rearing their young.—*Local Rec.*



1783 (May 15).—The Scale or Kale Cross, at the foot of the Side, Newcastle, was begun to be rebuilt under the direction of Mr. David Stephenson, architect, at the expense of sir Matthew White Ridley, bart. In August, 1786, the top was

decorated with the figure of a lion couchant in the front, and vases at the corners. Being considered an inconvenience to the street, it was taken down in 1807, and presented by the corporation to its donor, and was set up in his grounds at Blagdon.—*Local Papers.*

July 7.—Died, at Durham, in the 104th year of his age, William Towson, who had been a foot soldier under the Duke of Marlborough.—*Ibid.*

July 21.—There was a violent storm of thunder and lightning ; two

cows were killed by the lightning on Gateshead Fell, and at Ryal, in Northumberland, an old man sitting on a pole across a gateway, was instantly struck dead. On one side of him a young man sitting on the ground was also struck, but received no material injury, one of his legs was slightly burnt, and the clothes upon him were torn the whole length; a link of his watch chain was melted, and a part of it soldered to his watch; a dog lying near was also struck dead.—*Local Papers.*

1783 (July).—This month was finished the celebrated tower of Brislee, near Alnwick, built at the expence of his grace the duke of Northumberland. Its height is ninety feet.—*Ibid.*



While Brand was searching among the ruinous heaps at the Roman station of Halton, or Hunnum, about this period, he discovered a part of the shaft and capital of a column, which, no doubt, has anciently formed one of the supports of a temple there, wherein of old the Roman warriors offered up sacrifice to their gods. The column measured five feet and three inches in length, was sixteen inches in diameter, and it still lies among the ruins of the station which

has not yet known the plough, and consequently the ramparts and fallen ruins are very distinct.—*Brand. Hodgson.*

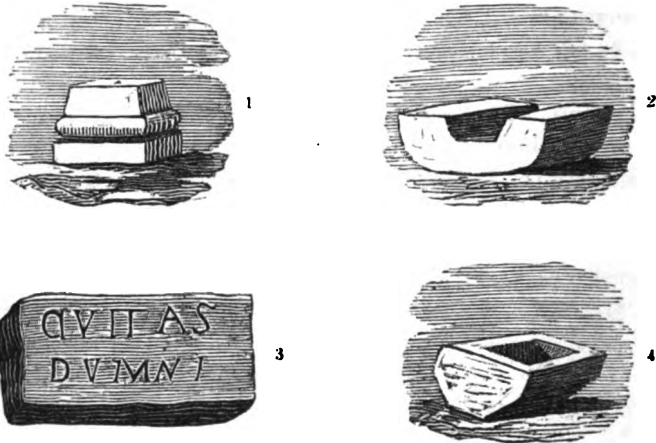
August 2.—A dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by hail of an uncommon size, occurred at Stockton and the neighbourhood. The hailstones were, in fact, irregular pieces of ice, each of them having a sort of an eye, or place from whence another seemed to have been broken off near the centre. They measured from three to five inches in circumference. The damage to the windows at Stockton was estimated at £150. Both before and after the storm, the air was uncommonly sultry. A farmer near Portrack happening to have a loaded gun in the house at the time, fitted one of the hailstones to his piece, and fired it through an inch deal.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

August 6.—Died, at Sedgefield, Durham, William Hall, formerly a farmer, aged 101 years.—*Local Papers.*

August 18.—Robert Storey was executed at Durham, for the murder of Thomas Idle, better known by the name of "*Cockle Geordy*," from his going about selling cockles. Being in a public house where Idle had incautiously shewn several guineas, Storey way-laid him for the purpose of murder and robbery.—*Ibid.*

September 24.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, John Wilson, labourer, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

1783 (Sep.).—As some workmen were digging up the foundation of a house at Wooler, which had belonged to the earl of Derwentwater, they found several half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences. Some of the coins were of great antiquity.—*Local Papers*.



When Brand visited Caervorran on October 7th, 1783, he saw numerous undescribed Roman remains. Among these were five square bases of columns (fig. 1); and some curious gutter stones (fig. 2). At Glenwhelt he saw a stone, found near Caervorran inscribed—"Civitas Dumni" (fig. 3), the etymon of which he supposes to be the "city of the hill" and as the station stands on high ground he concludes that the place has been called "the city of Dumnum." At the inn of Glenwhelt he noticed a remarkable hollow sepulchral stone (fig. 4). used as a swine's trough. It was found in opening a tumulus on the east of the station, was six inches in depth and contained a small quantity of a black liquid, with two gold rings. "What a falling off in character" says Hodgson "to become the trough of an unclean animal, from having, for fourteen centuries had the custody of the ashes of one whose hand had glittered with two gold rings, and whose memory had been honoured with a green altar of earth."

November 5.—The new Theatre at North Shields was first opened with a new occasional *prelude*, written by Mr. Cawdell, and the comedy of the *Bold Stroke for a Husband*, (never before having been acted in the country,) with a new musical farce.—*Local Papers*.

November 11.—A bull was baited in one of the principal streets of Alnwick, when the poor enraged animal threw down two tradesmen of that place, one of whom had his leg broken, and the other received a most violent wound on his head.—*Ibid*.

1783 (Nov. 15).—Died at his lodgings near the Forth, Newcastle, the rev. Thomas Cooke, one of the most eccentric characters of his day. Mr. Cooke was the son of a shoemaker, at Hexham, and born in the year 1719. He had his education as King's scholar, at Durham school, and afterwards entered in Queen's college Oxford, in which he took the degree of M. A. He was not long after presented to the curacy of Embleton, in Northumberland, where he made an attempt to follow the example of Christ in fasting forty days, and, what is astonishing indeed! he had resolution and strength to fast seventeen days without a taste of any thing whatever, and for twelve days more, to allow himself each day only a trifling crust of bread and a draught of water. In short, so strange were the notions he broached, and so extravagant his behaviour, that he incurred the displeasure and reprehension of his superiors in the church, and was by them soon discharged from his curacy. On this he went to London, where he commenced author, and published many pieces of unintelligible jargon. Here, he conceived the odd notion, that all the good things of this world should be common, and even this he in some degree put in practice. For he would go into a coffee-house in the morning, and take to his own use the first muffin and pot of coffee he saw set on any of the tables. After he had gone on for some time in this eccentric manner, the charity of some clergymen got him sent to Bedlam, where he staid two or three years. Ultimately he returned to the north, and, until a few years before his death, subsisted on a pension allowed him by the "Society of the Sons of the Clergy;" amusing himself with writing odes, letters, epigrams, strictures of one kind or other, and, which was his last undertaking, a plan for the alteration of St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, and a project for making, what he called, a grand universal church upon true evangelical principles.—*Newc. Courant*.



November 16.—This day was buried, James Wallace, of Asholme, Knaresdale and Featherstone castle, Northumberland; and Carleton hall, Cumberland, esquire. He was attorney-general in 1780 and 1783, and was on his way to Falmouth for the benefit of his health, when Dunning, who had just been created lord Ashburton, and he both arrived at the same inn for the night. Lord A. was on his return from Falmouth, unbenefitted in health by his visit there; but begged an interview with his old competitor through life. They spent the evening together in a way highly consolatory to both; but parted never to meet again; for they both died within a very short

time after this interview; lord A. in Lincoln's Inn Fields;—Mr. W. at Exeter, where he was buried. The above arms is from an old seal in the possession of the Wallace family.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1783 (November 17).—Monday, William Alexander was executed on the Town-moor, Newcastle, for forgery.—*Local Papers.*

November 19.—At night, the freemason's lodge at Sunderland, was discovered to be on fire; and before it was extinguished, all the furniture, pictures, &c. were consumed, and the house adjoining very much damaged.—*Ibid.*

November 24.—A fire broke out in Field-well house, near Gateshead, belonging to Mr. W. Wilson, farmer. The house and furniture, the byers and barns, which were full of corn, and many implements of husbandry were destroyed.—*Ibid.*

December 4.—A fire broke out at Dipton-mill, near Hexham, which entirely consumed the same, together with a drying-kiln, the dwelling-house and out-houses adjoining it. A part of the household furniture was, with difficulty, saved from the flames.—*Ibid.*

This year, a fine Roman altar, with an inscription, was discovered at Risingham, in Northumberland.—*Ibid.*

The church at Whalton, in Northumberland, was this year repaired, and parapets and pinnacles added to the tower. This church is very ancient.—*Ibid.*

The outer light-house on the Fern Islands was swept away by the sea, in a heavy storm at south east.—*Mackenzie's Northd.*

The old White Cross, in Newgate street, Newcastle, was pulled down.—*Brand.*

Died John Sylvester, of Tynemouth, aged 107 years.—*Local Rec.*



THE church of St. Nicholas', in Newcastle upon Tyne, which for several years previously, seems to have been gradually verging to decay, had, in 1783, become so completely dilapidated as to render extensive and immediate reparation indispensable. This the churchwardens appear to have deemed a fitting opportunity for doing something to immortalize their names. They accordingly resolved that the sittings in the church were ill arranged and inconvenient, and badly adapted for hearing,—and having satisfied themselves as to the correctness of these opinions they engaged Mr. Newton, an eminent architect of Newcastle, to prepare a plan for an entire change in the disposition of the pews and other furnishings of the interior. At this period the church of St. Nicholas, as regarded

its internal arrangement, furniture and decorations, afforded a spectacle of extraordinary magnificence. The Nave, or portion of the building west of the transept or cross aisle, was then chiefly used for divine service, and was regularly pewed with oak, beautifully ornamented with carvings of foliages, flowers, and various other devices ; the divisions between their doors terminating in a kind of fleur-de-lis head. On the north side of the church was a large gallery, erected in 1620, chiefly for the use of the boys belonging to the free Grammar school, on the front of which were carved the arms of the company of merchant adventurers. The reading desk and pulpit with a pinnacled canopy of exquisite workmanship (see cut p. 226), were placed against one of the pillars on the south side of the centre aisle, facing to the north ; and the font with its magnificent cover, stood between

the two columns which support the tower. At the east end of the centre aisle was the entrance to the choir and chancel, by an ascent of two or three steps, immediately in front of the organ-gallery, which occupied the space between the four great arches of the transept. On the top of these steps, in the centre of the aisle, was placed a brazen eagle with expanded wings, forming a desk, at which a portion of the morning service was usually read. The corporation pew also formed a prominent feature, being raised considerably above the general level, and having a lofty ornamental covering, supported by pillars. It was situated on the north side of the centre aisle, opposite to the pulpit. The screen separating the nave from the choir, was in three divisions of pointed arches, filled with beautiful and delicate tracery, rising to the bottom of the organ-gallery, which from the elaborate character of its enrichments, stood without a rival in the church : it was however more especially observable on account of its great antiquity, having survived the period of the Reformation. The ground floor under this gallery was made out in pews, one of which was appropriated



to the use of the vicar of Newcastle.

The choir, which extended eastward of the transept, was regularly stalled with oak, as in cathedral churches, and was separated from the side aisles by perforated wooden screens, enriched with tracery, and placed within the several arches, from the columns of which, and from the walls, both in the centre and side aisles, were suspended nu-

merous coats of mail, helmets, banners, and other funeral achievements, which, with the ancient monuments, and a considerable portion of old stained glass in the windows, combined to inspire feelings of awe and veneration, while they exhibited a scene of solemn grandeur, rarely to be witnessed.

Eastward of the stalls, and approaching the altar, was a balustrade or railing, across the chancel, which was new wainscotted by the corporation of Newcastle in the year 1712, at a cost of £126.; and between the altar rails and the end of the stalls, on either side of the choir, was an entrance from the side aisles. The area enclosed by the balustrade was also approached by an ascent of one or two steps; and the screen against which the altar was placed, occupied the space between the two easternmost pillars; the width of the arches between them and the great east window being entirely open, thus leaving a free passage quite round the choir and chancel. The front of St. George's porch, and that of the small chapel on the opposite side of the north transept, now built up, were also closed by screens, similar to those in the choir, and these again were connected by another extending across the transept.

In the north east corner of the church stood the fine monument of sir George Selby. His effigies, and that of his lady, were at length, resting upon pillows, with uplifted hands—On the front of the monument facing the south, were the effigies of his children, in a posture of prayer, kneeling, with raised hands; and within the palisadoes, upon a flat marble stone was inscribed "Jesu have mercy of the sowlle of George Selbe merchant-adventurer, some time alderman of this town, and Margaret his wife and their children." In the margin, on his side, anno 1542; on her side, 1562.



MONUMENT OF SIR GEORGE SELBY.

The tomb of George Carr, esq. who was mayor of Newcastle in 1481, was placed under the great east window, on its south side, and had the effigies of him and his wife at length, resting on pillows, with their hands raised, and an arched canopy above them.



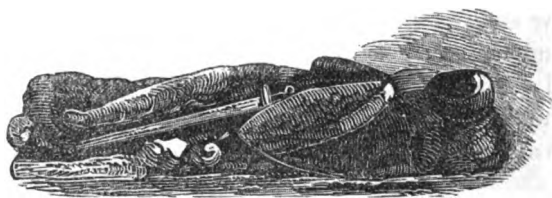
Beside these there were many other fine monuments, and the entire pavement was studded with sepulchral brasses and inscribed flag stones.

A faint outline only can here be conveyed of the once splendid character of the interior of this sacred edifice, which, in their wisdom, the parties then in power had doomed to destruction. The magnitude and the enormity of the proceeding however, seems, for a time at least, to have staggered the resolution even of these bold innovators, whom we find shrinking from the responsibility they had already incurred, and seeking to obtain the concurrence of their fellow parishioners in the prosecution of a measure of so great importance. A meeting was accordingly held in the vestry, and the question proposed, whether they would consent to an alteration of the church according to Mr. Newton's plan, then laid upon the table, providing a sufficient sum of money could be raised, without assessing the parish to a greater amount than would be required for decent and necessary repairs. Strange to say, the proposal experienced but little opposition, and the result of the meeting was the opening of a subscription, headed by the corporation, which at the close of the first day, amounted to upwards of four hundred guineas. A committee of thirty gentlemen was also appointed to assist the churchwardens in carrying the alterations into effect, some of whom urged the propriety of advertis-

ing for other plans beside Mr. Newton's, which, after much opposition, was agreed to, and plans were subsequently submitted for approval by Mr. Dodds and Mr. David Stephenson.

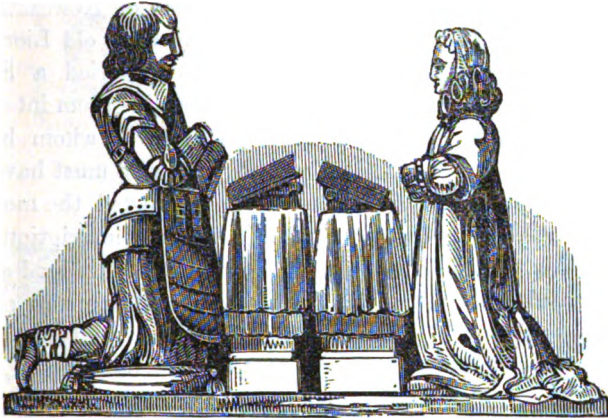
In finally deciding upon one of these plans, the committee was so equally divided, that, while the churchwardens' party succeeded, on the plea of economy, in retaining that by Mr. Newton, it was only effected by a sort of compromise with the other party, who supported Mr. Stephenson, and by which it was agreed that the work should proceed under the direction of that gentleman and Mr. Newton conjointly,—an arrangement which is stated to have proved highly detrimental to the funds raised to defray the expences of the alteration, and to have greatly protracted the period of its accomplishment.

Ample funds having been obtained, the interior of the church was speedily dismantled. The pulpit was torn down, the pews sold by auction, the screens removed, and all the monuments occupying the pavement of the aisles wantonly destroyed. The church being thus cleared, it became necessary in order to the levelling of the pavement, to take up the whole of the tomb-stones in the choir and chancel, and a resolution was taken not to permit any burials in that part of the church in future. Those persons who claimed burial places there, were, generally, satisfied with others assigned them in the nave, whither their respective grave stones were removed. Numerous other fine sculptured stones which were not then claimed, were most unjustifiably sold by the churchwardens, together with two stone coffins, and the monuments above named, to Christopher Blackett, esq., by whom they were used as foundation stones in building the Post office, on the north side of Mosley street.



The stone figure here represented, which laid in a niche under the south window of St. Mary's porch would have shared the same fate, but was spared at the solicitation of Mr. Fisher, clerk of St. Nicholas. In short, the stalls of the choir, the altar-screen, the school galleries, the font, and a few of the monuments, are the only erections which survived the general wreck! The stalls were placed in St. Mary's porch, which was fitted up for occasional services; the altar screen was removed backward to the east window; and the font to the

north transept; an entire suit of new pews, a new pulpit and organ-gallery were erected; and the organ brought to face the east. The gallery formerly on the north aisle of the nave was at the same time placed over the seats appropriated to the children of the charity school, in front of St. George's porch, which, on this occasion, became a receptacle for lumber.

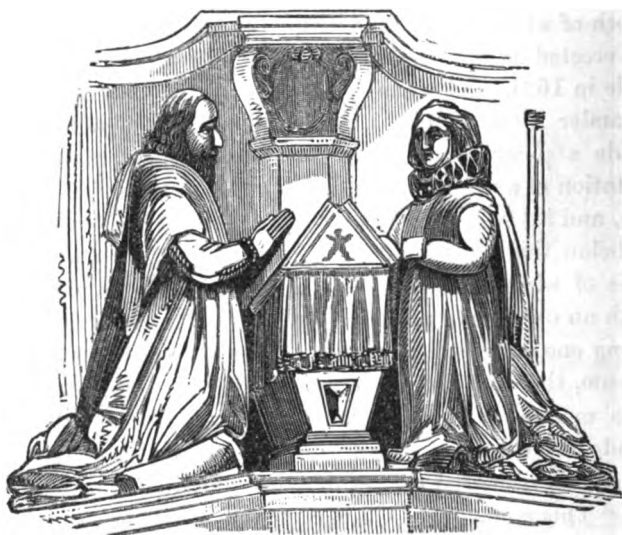


Of the few ancient monuments which did not materially interfere with the new arrangement, and so were permitted to escape destruction, the most remarkable are those of the families of Hall and Maddison, both of which are in the south aisle of the chancel. The former was erected to the memory of William Hall, who was mayor of Newcastle in 1624, and Jane his wife, by their only surviving son, sir Alexander Hall, knight. "The body of the monument has on either side a pillar of the Corinthian order; between which is the representation of a desk with open books upon it, and he on the one side of it, and his wife on the other, with their folded hands upon the books; below this are the effigies of their children in the same posture; one of which is represented kneeling alone, at one side of a desk, with an open book upon it; and other five on the other side of it, kneeling one after another. The former supposed to be designed for their son, the other for their daughters."* The principal figures upon this monument have been shamefully mutilated, having had their hands broken off, as shown in the accompanying engraving.

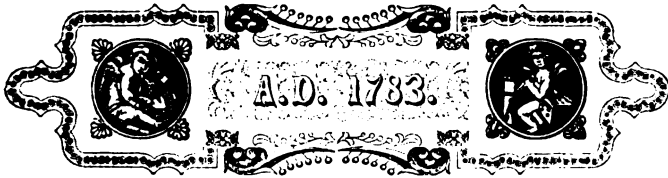
The splendid memorial of the Maddison family is thus described by Brand.—"This monument is of marble, which has been painted and

* Bourne

gilded since its first erection—it is affixed to a pillar on the north side of the south aisle. At the top are the images of Faith, Hope, and Charity, with their usual attributes.” (See initial letter page 284). “Below these are the statues of three persons of each sex, in suppliant attitudes, and on their knees. The two on each side of the desk in front,” represented below “are evidently meant for Henry Maddison and Elizabeth his wife, the daughter of Robert Barker. He is represented in the habit of an alderman of Newcastle. The two figures behind them on the west side represent old Lionel Maddison, also an alderman of that town, who married a Seymour. Above them a shield. The figures on the east side seem intended for sir Lionel Maddison, (knighted by king Charles I. whom he entertained at dinner June 4th, 1633), and his wife, who must have been a Hall.” “I suppose this sir Lionel to have erected the monument, having modestly left a compartment without any inscription on that side, which his descendants have never filled up. Indeed as he deserted the royal cause, he would therefore be an unpopular character after the restoration.” Underneath are sixteen smaller statues, all kneeling, representing the sixteen children of Henry and Elizabeth Maddison. The monument also exhibits a splendid series of twenty shields of arms, pointing out the various intermarriages of the family. Henry Maddison died July 14th, 1634.—*MS. Col.*



CHAPTER XIII.



1.



2.

IN the year 1783, Hutchinson visited the Roman station of Lancaster, and saw in the garden-wall of Mr. Greenwell, of the Ford, the sculptures 1 and 2, which with some others there, had been found a short time previous. He also discovered at a gate on the west side of the road, a pillar (3) which it is presumed stood on the Watling street. It was then used as a gate post, and inscribed, he thinks, to *Marcus Antonius Gordianus*. The *F* in the last line has been compound to make the word *Felici*. The fourth is a Roman patera, serving as a cover to the cup used for divine offices in the neighbouring church. It has 1571 engraved on it, which is doubtless the time of its discovery. The last is an



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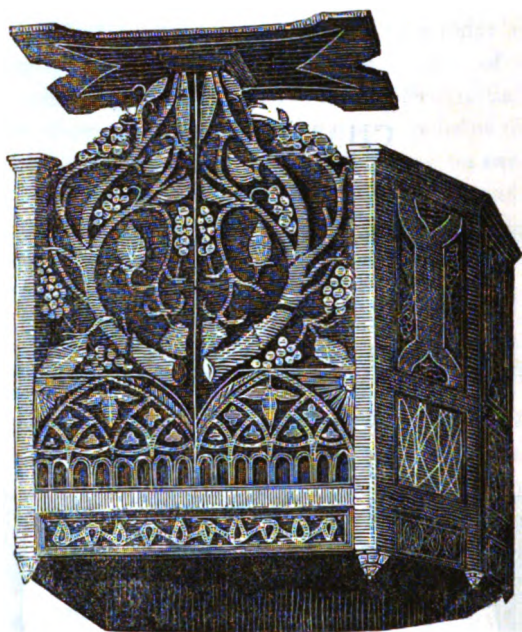


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ornamented square stone. It was dug up at the west entrance to the station, and shews that these fortifications have been more ornamented than is commonly supposed.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*

Half moon lane chapel, (Presbyterian) Gateshead, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1783 to 1837.—(*Rep. of Parl. Com.*) The chapel was opened for divine service January 1, 1786.

Scotch church, North Shields founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1783 to 1837.—*Ibid.*



THE ANCIENT PULPIT OF JARROW CHURCH, REMOVED A. D. 1783.

1783.—Jarrow church was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower and part of the chancel. During the removal of the old building in the preceding year a great number of antiquities were discovered, and sufficient proof adduced that Jarrow had been a fort, secondary station, or fortified village in the time of the Romans.

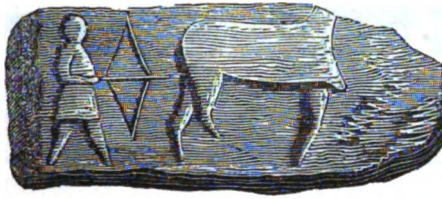


The first of these, is a military trophy, such as were usually placed on the front of temples, or other public buildings, and is read thus:—



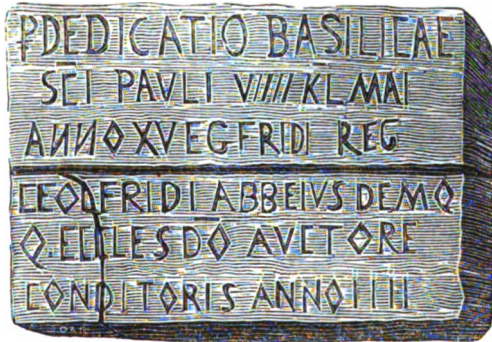
"The army erected this on the extension of the Roman dominion from the western to the eastern sea." This stone acquires considerable importance from the circumstance of its containing the name of our island—BRITANNIA—at full length. The next is the fragment of an altar, possibly a votive tribute to all the adopted sons of Hadrian. It was suggested by Brand, that these stones might have been brought from the adjacent station of South Shields; but later writers have coincided with the opinion expressed above. More immediate and decisive evidence

was obtained however, for, two square pavements of Roman brick, a



small silver coin of Aulus Vitellius, and a stone representing an archer shooting a stag, were discovered; and, at various times, the whole site of the monastery, church and village has been found to abound with Roman foundations. A piece of very ancient wall, at some distance from the N. E. corner of the cemetery, is supposed to be a part of the ancient defences of the station.

The Saxon history of Jarrow commences in 681, (235 years after the final departure of the Romans from Britain) and in 685 the monastery was built. One venerable and interesting monument was preserved in the alterations, and placed over the arch of the tower, between the nave and chancel, having formerly occupied a place in the north wall of the church. This most curious inscription is thus read by Brand:—"The dedication of the church of St. Paul on the 9th of the kalends of May, in the 15th year of king Egfrid, and the fourth of Ceolfrid, abbot, and under God the founder of the said church.*



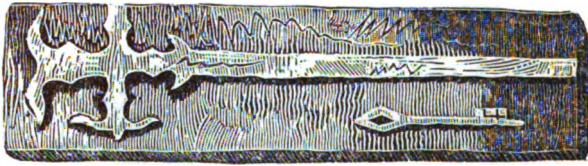
A fragment of an inscription, was removed hence by Brand to Ryton, and evidently relates to the abbot

"Huaeberchtus" who was contemporary with Bede. The next, now said to be built up in the church is read:—"In hoc singulari anno vita reditur mundo," and is supposed to allude to the refounda-



* "The basilicæ of Gentile Rome, the buildings where the magistrates held the courts

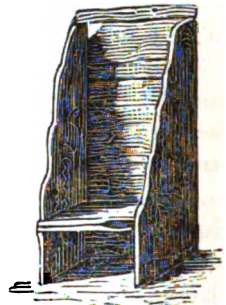
tion of the monastery by the Normans. Brand also found an oblong



stone coffin lid, bearing a cross, the head flory, and near the base of the staff, a key, supposed to have covered the grave of an abbot or cellarer. The ruins are so disjointed and shaken that little idea can be gained of their original form, but many curious morsels remain.



One of the bells in the tower is extremely remarkable it is marked with two fleurs-de-lis, and inscribed in large characters "Sancti Pauli ora pro nobis." The bell is supposed to be that placed in the original foundation, and is seventy-



eight inches in circumference. In the vestry is exhibited an old rude oaken chair, said to have been the common chair of the venerable Bede. The seat and sides are very ancient; but the back is acknowledged to be modern. Brides are installed in it soon after marriage to assist in fecundity. Many a fair pilgrim too, has carried away a piece of it to place under her pillow, confident that she (under so powerful a charm) will dream of her future husband. The pious thefts of such believing visitors have rendered the chair very rough and uneven.—*Brand. Hodgson. Mackenzie. MS.*

1784.—The Tees was frozen over, and a sheep roasted thereon.—*Brewster.*

January 14.—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Slack, who, for many years had carried on with credit and respectability, the business of a printer, bookseller, and publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle. He was the author of *The British Negotiator*, *Banker's Guide*, and

of Justice, were converted into churches on their conversion to Christianity; and thus came the word basilicæ to signify a church. The 9th of the kalends of May is the 23rd of April."—*Brand.*

other books of calculation, published in the name of *S. Thomas*.—*Local Rec.*

1784 (March).—As some men were ploughing in the lands of Swaites-hall, near Barnardcastle, they turned up several pieces of silver, which, upon examination, were found to be coins of Henry I., which had in all probability lain in the ground nearly 600 years, and what was very remarkable, a tradition of treasure being hid there, had been handed down in the family for ages.—*Local Papers.*

April 5.—The master and brethren of King George's lodge, Sunderland, accompanied by a great number of brethren from the neighbouring lodges, went in procession to lay the foundation stone of the Phoenix lodge. After the usual ceremonies, coins of his majesty George III., and an elegant coronation medal of Queen Charlotte, were deposited in the stone, and above them a copper-plate, on which was engraved an elegant Latin inscription. April 5th, 1785, the lodge was dedicated with great solemnity.—*Ibid.*

May 10.—Workmen began to pull down the buildings in the Black Swan entry, and Bird in Bush Yard, on the west side of Pilgrim street, Newcastle, for the purpose of forming Mosley-street.—*Ibid.*

May 16.—A fire broke out in the pottery at St. Anthony's, on the river Tyne, near Newcastle, belonging to Messrs. King and Co., but was got under after damaging a great quantity of earthenware and part of the building.—*Ibid.*

May 17.—Workmen began to pull down the house which formed an angle between the foot of the Side and the Sandhill, nearly opposite to the foot of the Butcher's Bank, Newcastle, for the purpose of widening that very narrow and dangerous turning.—*Ibid.*

May 18.—A fire broke out in a joiner's shop, in the Painter Heugh, Newcastle, occasioned by an oil pot having been carelessly left on the fire, which boiled over. The shop, and every thing it contained was entirely consumed.—*Ibid.*

May 27.—A fire broke out in a joiner's shop, down an entry in the Flesh Market, Newcastle, which entirely destroyed it and its contents.—*Ibid.*

June 1.—The brewery and malting at Whitley, near North Shields, belonging to Mr. Hall, took fire and were entirely consumed.—*Ibid.*

June 18.—A fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Kidd, flax-dresser, in the Groat Market, Newcastle. It was somewhat remarkable, that in the course of a few years, Mr. Kidd had a warehouse entirely consumed, and his shop twice on fire, but on both occasions the fire in the shop was extinguished without much damage.—*Ibid.*

August.—The New White Cross, in Newgate Street, Newcastle, was finished. It was built on the plan, and under the inspection of

Mr. David Stephenson, architect. It was ornamented on the four sides with the arms of the mayor, magistrates, and sheriff. While in progress of erection the inhabitants in the neighbourhood petitioned the common council to have a clock therein, which being agreed to, a turret was adopted in lieu of the original design.—*Local Papers*.

1784 (August 9).—A balloon was set off from the Sandhill, Newcastle, by Mr. Clarke, jun., for the benefit and enlargement of an eminent teacher then in Newgate, for a debt contracted when in a bad state of health. It continued in view about ten minutes, when it disappeared by its great elevation. The sum collected amounted to £33. which answered the intended purpose.—*Ibid*.

August 26.—James Chambers and William Collins, two sailors, the former a Scotsman, the other an Irishman, were executed on the Town moor, near Newcastle, for the robbing of Mr. Jasper Anderson, of Coxlodge, near his own house, on the 18th of the preceding November.—*Ibid*.

September 2.—Some workmen digging under a house in the Old Flesh-market, Newcastle, discovered, at the depth of 18 inches from the surface, two human skulls, and several other bones, which had apparently belonged to full grown men or women.—*Ibid*.

October 30.—Died, at Birtley, in the parish of Chester-le-Street, Elizabeth Errington, aged 10½ years.—*Ibid*.

November 23.—A fire broke out in a bakehouse, at Monkwearmouth-shore, which entirely consumed the same, two houses adjoining and much damaged a third.—*Ibid*.

November.—An explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which three men lost their lives. Another explosion occurred in December, when two men lost their lives. These explosions were supposed to have taken place at the spark of the steel mill, by the light of which the people were working in the shaft. The bodies were not recovered for several months. In repairing the shaft after these explosions, the mode of throwing the rays of the sun down a shaft by a mirror, so as to light it, was accidentally discovered in the following manner:—while the people were working in the shaft, at about 80 fathoms from the surface, a carpenter was employed to do something at the head framing immediately above the mouth of the shaft, and in using his saw, he accidentally turned the bright blade of it, so as to throw a pencil of the sun's rays suddenly down the pit, to the great terror of the workmen below, who thought the pit had fired again. The cause of their alarm however, being soon discovered it suggested the idea of applying a mirror to throw the light of the sun down the shaft, which mode of lighting has since been frequently resorted to, when other lights could not be used.—*Ibid*.



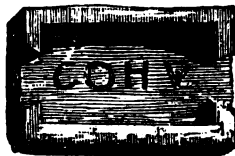
1784.—By the washing of a flood on the banks of the Darwent, the accompanying altar (1.) was discovered, and was in the possession of H. Swinburne, esq., in 1787. It is two feet six inches high, and thirteen inches thick, the characters are well cut and mostly distinct. The second, third, and fourth, were also found at Ebchester at a



former period, and placed by the rev. Mr. Jefferson in the wall of the curacy house. The last is fixed in the wall of another house near the former.—*Hutchinson's Dur.*



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This year, died at Alnwick, Hugh Rowland Hughes, aged 115 years. He had had four wives, by whom he had twenty-three children.—*Local Papers.*

1785 (Jan. 15).—A sheep belonging to Mr. Robertson of Bolam-moor-house, was dug out of the snow alive, after having lain six weeks covered over a very considerable thickness.—*Ibid.*

This month, was married at Newcastle, Mr. Silvertop, to Mrs. Pearson;—this was the third time that this lady had been before the altar in the character of a bride, and there had been something remarkable in each of her three connubial engagements, her first husband, was a Quaker, of the name of Ormston, her second a Roman Catholic, and her third a Protestant of the established church. Every husband was twice her age; at 16 she married a gentleman of 32; at 30 she took one of 60; and, at 42, she was united to a gentleman of 84.—*Chatto's Col.*

February 6.—Died, in London, Matthew Duane, esq., the most eminent conveyancer of his time. He was Fellow of the Royal and

Antiquarian Societies, and a trustee of the British Museum. Being a skilful collector, he left behind him a complete series of Syrian, Phœnician, Grecian, Roman, and other coins. He was the friend and patron of the polite and fine arts. The body arrived in Newcastle on the 26th of February, and the same evening was interred in St. Nicholas' church, where a neat mural monument is placed to his memory.—*Local Papers*.

1785 (Feb.).—Two children, sons of James Bryson, shoemaker, of Newcastle, the eldest about six, and the younger only three years of age, performed several tunes upon the Harpsichord, before a numerous and genteel company at the Old Assembly Rooms, in that town; when they gave such proofs of their great powers upon the instrument, as astonished the whole company.—*Newc. Mag.*

April 5.—A very numerous and splendid company attended the dedication of the Phoenix Lodge at Sunderland. They met at the lodge room at nine in the morning, from whence they proceeded to St. John's chapel, where a most eloquent lecture on masonry was delivered by the rev. M. Hall; and the sacred oratorio of the Messiah performed, the tickets to which produced £90. After the oratorio 200 of the brethren dined together at the lodge room: and the day was spent with that brotherly love and harmony, which distinguish such meetings.—*Ibid.*

April 15.—A sheep, the property of Anthony Hall, of Side Head, was taken from among the snow at Black, near Chapel, in Weardale, Durham, where it had remained covered nineteen weeks and three days; after it was taken out it ran a considerable time, and was soon afterwards in thriving condition. The place where it was buried being near a spring, it was supposed to have fed upon rushes.—*Berwick Museum*.

April 25.—The sailors in the port of Tyne having, for some time, made a stand, demanding 50s. per month wages or £3. the London voyage, and their victuals whilst the ship remained in harbour. The mayor and magistrates of Newcastle, with several of the neighbouring justices, went to Shields on the above day, accompanied by a party of soldiers, in order to settle the dispute; when, finding the sailors resolute in their determination not to go to sea under the proposed wages,—it was thought proper to comply with their request, and they accordingly went peacefully on board their respective ships. It is remarkable, and much to the honour of the seamen, that during the whole of their stand, they behaved with the greatest regularity; and, except preventing the ships from going to sea, and maltreating some of their own body, who refused to join in their demand, not the least mischief was done.—*Newc. Mag.*

1785 (May 26).—Died, in the alms-house, at Bishopwearmouth, Daniel Stuart, a travelling bookseller, aged 105 years. He was supposed to be the oldest bookseller, or *flying stationer* in Great Britain. He travelled the country and the town of Sunderland, within half a year of his death, and what was very remarkable, he never made use of spectacles.—*Local Papers*.

June 12.—The church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, after the alterations, commenced in 1783, was re-opened for divine service.—*Ibid.*

June.—An explosion occurred in Wallsend colliery, by which one man lost his life. This was the first explosion which was distinctly known to have taken place at the steel mill. Some doubt remained up to this time as to whether the fire damp would explode at the spark of the steel mill or not; but the fact was clearly ascertained on this occasion, as the person, John Selkirk, who was “playing” the mill survived the accident.—*Ibid.*

June 27.—A farmer in Rothbury Forest, Northumberland, casting peat incautiously, set fire to a part of the heath, to get more easily at the moss, which, by the dryness of the season, spread, and more than one hundred and fifty acres were consumed. After this, the heath on the adjoining hills, called Simonside-beacon, took fire, and more than one thousand acres of sheep ground were rendered totally useless. On the 29th, the writer of this account says, he walked to the top of a rock, from whence the prospect was dreadful beyond conception. A large surface of fire appeared in the valley below, and the surrounding hills being in flames, exhibited a picture equally horrible and beautiful.—*Chatto's Col.*

July 25.—John Winship, a farmer, in the neighbourhood of Monkwearmouth, was executed at Durham, having been convicted of poisoning his maid-servant by administering certain drugs to produce abortion. His body was given to the surgeons for dissection, and was opened by Mr. Wilkinson, of Sunderland, who in the presence of many gentlemen of the faculty, delivered a lecture on the contents of the cranium, thorax and abdomen.—*Local Papers*.

August 1.—Four persons were executed at Durham, viz:—William Hamilton, and Isabella his reputed wife, for breaking into and robbing the house of John Smith, of Stobbalee, near Witton Gilbert, and cruelly using the said John Smith and his wife; Thomas Elliot, for horse-stealing; and Duncan Wright, for house-breaking.—*Ibid.*

August 16.—William Graham, for housebreaking, and William Cockburn, for horse-stealing, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences.—*Ibid.*

September 8.—Late at night, one of the sugar-houses of Messrs. Forster and Co., in the close, Newcastle, was discovered to be on

fire; and about two o'clock on the following morning, the flames burst forth from several parts of the building with such dreadful fury, that the prospect became in a moment the most shocking and tremendous, imagination can conceive. Every attempt to stop its progress appeared for some time to be fruitless. The ringing of the the fire-bell, procured the almost immediate assistance of all the fire-engines kept in the town, which, by the exertions of the firemen and other inhabitants, were rendered of the most important service in preventing the flames from communicating to the surrounding buildings. In a few hours the whole of that extensive erection, the sugar-house fronting the river, with a great part of the valuable stock, was reduced to ashes. Mr. Clapham's brewery, adjoining, unavoidably shared the same fate, and considerable damage was also done to the buildings on the opposite side.—*Local Papers.*

1785 (Oct. 16).—Died, at the Grange, Miss Ann Allan, aged 68. On the 25th her remains were interred in the family vault at Darlington, accompanied by the tears of the poor, and the lamentations of all. The pall was supported by the two Messrs. Arden, the hon. Mr. Vane, sir John Eden, sir Henry Vane, Mr. Tempest, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Nesham. A dole was given to upwards of 9,000 poor people. The late eminent antiquary, George Allan, esq., F.S.A. "In gratitude to her memory," had a portrait of this lady engraved for private distribution. It is engraved by Collyer from a painting by Hay, and exhibits a fine-looking old lady, seated in a chair, with a book in her hand.—*Ibid.*

October 31.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Elizabeth Jameson, aged 100 years. She lived in a garret wherein she was born, and brought up a large family, without having ever changed her situation. *Ibid.*

November 7.—A specimen of the Redwing was taken up at six o'clock in the morning which on its approach to land, had flown against Tynemouth light house, and was so stunned that it fell to the ground and died soon after, the light most probably had attracted its attention.—*Bewick.*

The south pillars in the interior of the church of All Saints, Newcastle, having giving away, the celebration of divine service on Sunday the 18th of December was prevented. The decayed and ruinous state of the building excited considerable alarm, which was further increased by the south wall shrinking considerably. On an inspection of the church by Mr. William Newton, architect, it was found that the south wall inclined outward six to twelve inches from the perpendicular; that the south pillars and arches in the interior inclined from fourteen to eighteen inches in the same direction; and that fissures



INTERIOR OF THE RUINS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

of an inch and a half in width, were formed at the base of the pillars, from which a recent shrink had separated several pieces of stone. Mr. Newton recommended the reparation of the structure at the estimated expence of £1,683, 13s., and a committee was appointed on the 19th of January, 1786, to carry his proposition into execution. As however, by Mr. Newton's plan, the chancel must have been shortened twenty-six feet, and the body of the church sixteen feet from the west end; and as doubts existed regarding the expediency of the undertaking, the professional opinions of Messrs David Stephenson and John Dodds, were requested by the committee. The reports of these gentlemen were received on the 28th of March. Mr. Stephenson stated that, from the number of unforeseen circumstances that would occur in the prosecution of the work, no correct idea of the expences could be estimated; and Mr. Dodds concluded his report by observing that "this decayed building cannot be repaired but at as much expence as building a new one. If one part is taken down the rest will follow." At a meeting of the parishioners held in the vestry-room, on Easter Tuesday, April 18th, the question for the erection of a new church was carried unanimously, in consequence of which resolution, divine service was performed in the church for the last time, on the 9th of July.—*Sopwith's All Saints.*

1785.—About this period was discovered the very singular salt spring at Birtley, in the county of Durham; one of the greatest arcana of nature, and which, like many more, will never be explored by man, and displays the wonderful works of the omnipotent in an eminent degree. It arises at the depth of seventy fathoms, in an engine pit erected for drawing water out of coal mines, at the extremity of a stone drift, drove two hundred yards north-east therein for the purpose of draining the water from the coal works, and what is more extraordinary, springs only in such drift in every direction, though such pit, and every other contiguous thereto, have been excavated both above and below it many fathoms, where, and when it might naturally have been supposed the same spring would have been found. Its mixing itself with the fresh water in the same pit, would have occasioned its remaining unnoticed to this day, but for an accident which happened to the boiler of the engine soon after its erection. One morning the bottom of the boiler suddenly dropt out, the engine man amazed thereat, as well he might, informed the undertakers, who upon examination found it incrustated with a vast quantity of salt, and the iron totally corroded. Upon tasting the water, though incorporated with immense quantities of fresh, it was found exceedingly brackish and salt, whereupon they explored the workings, and found the above mentioned very valuable salt spring arise in such drift only, and which has since produced, and may for centuries produce 20,000 gallons per day, four times stronger than any sea water whatever, therefore it can have no communication with the sea. In consequence of this valuable discovery, an extensive manufactory of salt was established by a company of gentlemen, who, after encountering many difficulties, succeeded in bringing it to very great perfection. The quantity of water has never been known to vary, and it is as strong now as when the salt works first began. The quantity of salt made yearly is about 1000 tons.—*Min. of Bd. of Agriculture. Surtees.*

December.—An explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which unfortunate accident two men lost their lives.—*Local Papers.*

In the beginning of December, a most violent and destructive storm ravaged the coasts of Northumberland and Durham. The wind was accompanied with very large falls of snow, which was felt more particularly in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, than at any other place in the county. The roads were completely blocked up, until labourers were procured to form a communication, particularly the great north road between Felton and Alnwick, and westward between Harlow hill and Hexham; at both of which the labourers were numerous. All trade was stopped, not a waggon being able to arrive in Newcastle for many days. At sea the effects of the storm were

dreadful beyond description, the whole extent of the coast for more than an hundred miles in length, was strewed with wrecks, and vessels on the ground. Between Alnmouth and Coquet Island, eleven vessels lay on the beach, besides those that had foundered, and been stoven to pieces among the rocks. Happily the whole of the crews of these eleven were saved. Fifteen ships were ashore to the northward of Alnmouth, and between Coquet island and Cresswell-point, no less than thirty lay in utter ruin. At Blyth, the English Hero was driven on shore. The crew, ten in number, seeing no other course, entered the boats, and all perished. They left two boys on board, one of whom went to prayers, and when the storm abated, was found fast asleep in the cabin, as calm and serene as if no danger had been near. A poor man walking along the coast near Blyth, saw a dead body lying on the sand, and on examining it, found in a pocket of his clothes, thirteen pounds of money. Having procured assistance, he had the body conveyed to the church yard, to be identified if possible. The money he placed in proper hands, for delivery to his friends, if any should appear. Between Hartlepool and Seaton Carew, in the county of Durham, not less than thirty-three vessels lay upon the beach—*Chatto's Col. Local Papers.*

1785.—This year died, Mrs. Carr, of the Quay side, Newcastle, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

In the winter of this year, the entrance of Sunderland harbour was warped up by a large sand-bed, which extended quite across the haven mouth, leaving scarcely depth of water for the entrance of a light vessel. It was suggested, in consequence, by Mr. Shout, the resident engineer, that a temporary wooden pier should be erected on the north side of the river, in order to contract the channel, and enable the ebb tide to scour itself a deeper bed. The plan was immediately adopted, and in a few months there was a deep and spacious channel. This beneficial result induced the commissioners to commence the building of a permanent pier of stone. Near seven hundred feet of solid pier, built upon piles, was completed by Mr. Shout the elder, and ninety feet more were added by his successor Mr. Pickernel.—The preamble of an act of this date, for the improvement of Sunderland harbour, states, that the east end of the south pier had become ruinous and in danger of falling, and that it was necessary to take it down, and rebuild it in a different direction, less exposed to the violence of the sea and land floods. Since that period the south pier has been extended to the length of 1877 feet.—*Surtees.*

This year, a Grammar-school was built by subscription at Stockton on a plot of ground leased under the bishop of Durham by the corporation.—*Brewster.*

1785.—A dispensary was this year established at Durham. Out of this charitable institution, arose the present Infirmary of that city.—*Surtees*.

1786 (Jan. 16).—Died at Chester-le-Street, Mrs. Barron, in the 101st year of her age.—*Local Papers*.

January 28.—A boar, the property of Mr. Graham (Clarke) of Newcastle, having escaped from his confinement into the street, a servant, named Joseph Smith, was despatched in pursuit of him. The man followed the animal into the narrow lane between High Friar street and the town's wall, from which it was necessary to turn him towards home, and made several attempts to drive him back, by throwing stones. The furious beast at last turned upon his wretched victim, and, siezing him by the upper part of the thigh, tore him dreadfully. Some persons hearing his moans, came to his assistance, when the boar flew at them so furiously, that they were glad to make their escape by getting over an adjoining wall; after which the boar returned to his prey, and tore him upwards, in such a dreadful manner, that he died in the space of a few minutes. The boar was shot immediately, and buried in the Carliol Croft, (now Carliol street, &c.), but some persons afterwards dug him up.—*Ibid*.

March 15.—Was found dead in his bed, at an obscure lodging near Chiswell-street (London), William Swan, esq. He was the surviving male-heir of the late Thomas Swan, esq., alderman and mayor of Hull, in Yorkshire, who left estates to the amount of £20,000 per annum, and which the above unfortunate gentleman had been trying in vain for twenty years to recover. The history of the heir is no less remarkable than that of his father, who, when nine years of age, (to disinherit him) was trepanned from his father's house, (Richard Swan, esq., of Benwell hall, near Newcastle), and put on board the New Britannia brig, was wrecked on the rocks of Scilly, with sir Cloudesley Shovel's fleet, and was afterwards taken prisoner by an Algerine vessel, and sold for a slave; but after four years' imprisonment, he was set at liberty by the redeeming friars. After this he was again taken prisoner, carried and sold for a slave to a planter in South Carolina, where he suffered almost every human woe. He returned to England, after a banishment of above twenty years, in 1726, and was identified by one Mrs. Gofton, of Newcastle, his nurse, and Mr. Thomas Chance, who had been his father's footman. He directly laid claim to the estates of alderman Swan, but having neither money nor friends living to assist him, all his efforts proved abortive. After this he settled at an obscure village near Hull, called North Dalton, where he married one Jane Cole, by whom he had one son, the above unfortunate William Swan. He afterwards died of a broken heart at the above village in 1735."—*Chatto's Col*.

1786 (April 9).—At Bowsdon-moor, in the parish of Lowick, Northumberland, a young goose laid an egg of an uncommon size, which induced the owner to break it, in order to see if any thing particular was the cause of its great bulk. It was found to be double. The enclosed egg was about the common size. The shell of the outermost was not so hard as the other. This, together with the enclosed egg, also contained an equal quantity of white and yolk. The whole weighed upwards of $13\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.—*Berwick Museum.*

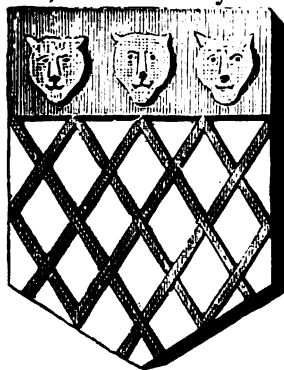
April 19.—A fire broke out in the store-room, and communicated to the offices of the salt-works at Birtley, in the county of Durham, which raged with great fury, and seemed to threaten destruction to the whole of the valuable and extensive buildings, but was happily got under after doing considerable damage; and that night was entirely extinguished by the firemen and engines belonging to the Newcastle Insurance Office, whose readiness and uncommon exertions on the occasion merited the highest encomiums.—*Ibid.*

April 24.—Died, at Jarrow quay, Mrs. Eleanor Railston, aged 103 years. She could walk about, and read without spectacles to the day of her death.—*Local Papers.*

April.—An explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which unfortunate event six human beings lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

May 4.—Died, in Mr. Davison's hospital, in Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Hobson, aged 100 years. She was the first woman that entered that building after its being opened for the reception of poor freemen's daughters.—*Ibid.*

May 15.—Died, at Picktree, near Chester-le-Street, Mr. George Bell, in the 103rd year of his age.—*Ibid.*



May 24.—Sir Henry George Liddell, bart., of Ravensworth castle, in the county of Durham, in company with Mr. Bowes, and Mr. Consett, embarked at Shields, on board the Gottenburgh Merchant, captain Fothergill, on a tour through Sweden, Swedish Lapland, Finland, and Denmark, which was performed in about three months. It is said that this tour was undertaken in consequence of a wager made by sir H. G. Liddell, of going to Lapland, returning thence in a certain time, bringing home with him two females of that country, and two rein-deer. Whatever truth there may be in this report, it is certain that sir Henry brought two Lapland women and two rein-deer to England. The women, whose names were SIGREE and ANEA, remained for some time at Ravensworth castle, where they

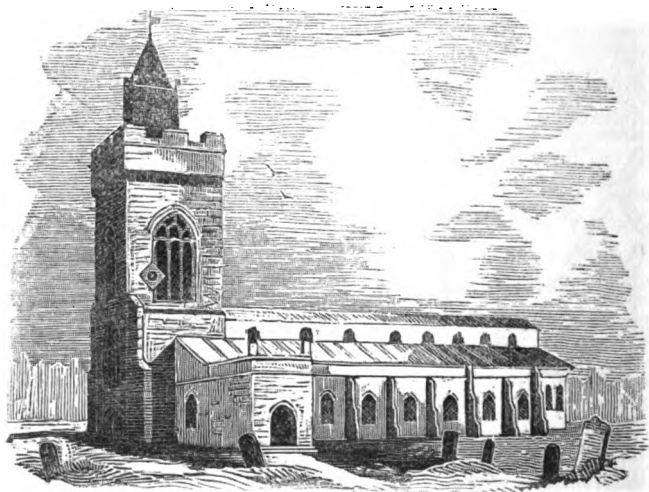
were considered as great curiosities. Many presents were made to them, and they were sent back to their native country at the expense of sir Henry, with about £50 in money, which they looked upon as great riches. An account of this tour, with plates by Bewick, was published by Mr. Consett.—*Local Rec.*

1786 (May).—The burial ground at the Ballast-hills, near Newcastle, was begun to be encircled with a wall built by subscription, being before entirely open. This old wall becoming ruinous and inadequate for the protection of the dead, and the cemetery excessively crowded with interments, the corporation granted an extension of ground; and a parapet wall with high iron palisadoes, and two neat stone lodges have recently been built by subscription.—*Ibid.*

June 6.—Died, at Sion house, near London, in the 74th year of his age, the most noble Hugh, duke and earl of Northumberland. June 21st, his grace was interred with great funeral splendour in Westminster abbey.—*Mon. Mag.*

June 22.—A herring, weighing upwards of four pounds, and 22 inches long, and 11 inches broad when split, was taken in a salmon net, at Needle-eye, in the Tweed, about a mile and a-half above Berwick-bridge.—*Berwick Museum.*

June 27.—The bill for taking down and rebuilding All Saints' church, in Newcastle, received the royal assent. August 14th, the foundation stone of the new building was laid by the rev. James Stephen Lushington, A. M. and vicar of that town, assisted by Mr. David Stephenson, architect to the building. Under the stone was



ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, DESIGNED FROM CORBRIDGE, WATERS, AND BRAND.

deposited a plate with a suitable inscription. The present building stands west of the site of the old structure.—*Local Papers*.

1786 (July 17).—Three hundred fine salmon were taken at one draught below Berwick bridge; and a few days after, one hundred and fifty-five were taken at one draught in the same place.—*Ibid*.

August 9.—The post-office was removed from the head of the Side, to No. 9, Mosley street, Newcastle.—*Ibid*.

August 21.—Francis Blenkinsop and Morley Tewitt were executed at Durham, for house-breaking.—*Ibid*.

August 21.—A son of the rev. Mr. Smith of Ilderton, near Wooler, fell into a pond, and lay in it a considerable time before he was discovered; when he was taken out, he seemed to all appearance dead, his tongue hanging out of his mouth, and his eyes greatly distorted. Mr. Smith placed him almost erect, on the side of a bank near the pond, and placing his mouth to that of his son, blew therein with considerable force, holding the boy's nose tight. In a short time the boy gave a groan; and by continuing the same application, in a few minutes the boy opened his eyes, and threw up a great quantity of water, after which he happily recovered.—*Berwick Museum*.

August 27.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Mrs. Nansome, in the 105th year of her age.—*Local Papers*.

August 30.—Henry Jennings was executed on the Town-moor, Newcastle, pursuant to his sentence for horse-stealing. During the awful ceremony, a boy named Peter Donnison, was apprehended picking the pocket of a gentleman standing near the foot of the gallows.—*Ibid*.

September 2.—As Mr. William Hedley, in company with several others, were viewing the remains of the steeple of the old church of All Saints', in Newcastle, after it had sustained a blast with gunpowder, and the workmen were preparing for another, a few of the upper stones appearing to give way, they were forewarned of their danger; but Mr. Hedley unfortunately ran in the way, and one of the stones fell upon his head, crushing it so dreadfully, that he expired soon after being carried home. This gentleman was deeply regretted. At Bourdeaux, in France, he signalized himself, on the 25th of July, 1783, in so courageous a manner, by saving a child from drowning, as drew the attention of the whole kingdom of France, insomuch that his praise was resounded from the capital itself; no one else daring so dangerous an enterprise.—*Ibid*.

September 19.—Being the day appointed for Mr. Lunardi's ascension, was the most favourable and delightful that could be wished for; and the joyful countenances of the people seemed as if their imaginations anticipated the pleasure of the wished for prospect.

Every eminence of the town, and every place adjoining the Spital from whence the ascension was to be taken, were crowded with people. About one o'clock Mr. Lunardi began the operation of filling the balloon, which went on in the most successful and expeditious manner; and some gentlemen who had been present at other experiments of the kind, expressed the highest approbation of the apparatus lately invented by him. When it was somewhat more than half filled, and became capable of supporting its own weight, a number of gentlemen were employed in holding down the balloon, by the netting in which it was enclosed. Every thing continued for some time in the most promising state; the balloon gradually expanding, and the delightful serenity of the day, enlightened every countenance; but on a sudden this scene was changed for one, the most horrible, gloomy and affecting!—Mr. Lunardi having introduced the remaining part of the acid, and the effervescence being, at the time, remarkably strong, forced a quantity of inflammable air through the hole, which was only four inches in diameter, before the plug could be replaced; this gave such an alarm to some of the gentlemen on that side of the balloon, who thought it was fire, that they immediately quitted their hold of the net, and flew to the other side, alarming those stationed there also, though they did not still see any cause for fear. The balloon being liberated on one side made a rapid stretch upwards, whereby a considerable opening was torn in its neck; this occasioned a loud noise, and a considerable discharge of inflammable air: M. Lunardi ran to the opposite side, and desired the gentlemen there to keep their hold, assuring them there was not the least danger; the consternation, however, soon became general, and the balloon being set at liberty, ascended with great rapidity; and unfortunately Mr. Ralph Heron, jun., of Newcastle, who had twisted a rope, fastened to its top, round his hand and arm, was dragged up by it to the height of, it is supposed, five hundred feet, when the rope and netting being disengaged from the balloon, he fell into a garden adjoining, which occasioned his death in a few hours. The dreadful manner in which this young gentleman became the innocent victim of the day, added to his amiable character and individual worth, rendered the remainder of the day an entire scene of grief and commiseration.—*Local Papers.*

1786 (Sept. 30).—Died, at the Westgate, Newcastle, Hannah Richardson, in the 102nd year of her age.—*Ibid.*

This month, the duke of Northumberland, was appointed lord-lieutenant and *custus rotulorum* of the county of Northumberland, and of the town and county of Newcastle.—*Brand.*

November 13.—The royal mail-coach commenced running to the

south, from Newcastle. Nov. 22nd, the first mail from Newcastle to the south, was conveyed by the royal mail-coach. Nov. 27th, the mail was conveyed from Newcastle to the north by the coach for the first time.—*Local Papers.*

1786 (Nov. 24).—A most shocking circumstance happened at Benwell, near Newcastle. Mr. Sparke, whose mother formerly kept the Black Bull ale-house, in the Flesh-market, Newcastle, having spent a considerable part of the evening with his mother, in her apartment up stairs, and having, it was supposed, got himself rather intoxicated, came down, and told the maid-servant he would kill the cat, when he instantly caught hold of the animal, and dashed out its brains; after which he forcibly turned the girl to the door, and locked it after her. She went to a neighbouring house to stay till the morning, when she returned and found the door open, and was met by her master, who informed her, he had been fighting with the devil all night, and had killed him, and he was then lying dead up stairs, dressed in his mother's clothes. The girl did not much regard what he said, as she had discovered, several times previous thereto, strong marks of insanity; but thinking her mistress unusually long in coming down stairs, she went up to awake her, when, on entering the room, a most dreadful spectacle presented itself; Mrs. Sparke lying dead, wounded in many places, and the bed-clothes, all bloody, strewed about the room. Upon examination, her neck being black and swelled, corroborated with other circumstances, the jury gave in their verdict, *wilful murder*, by her own son; on which he was committed to Morpeth gaol. Previous to this act, he had been intoxicated for some days, which never failed to produce delirium, which often occasioned him to commit acts that testified the most perfect insanity. At the assizes, held in Newcastle, in August, 1787, he was acquitted.—*Ibid.*

November.—Died, at Sunderland, Priscilla Liddle, aged 106 years.—*Ibid.*

December.—Died, in the workhouse, at Wolsingham, Durham, Ralph Wilson, in his 101st year.—*Ibid.*

This year, the names of the streets in Newcastle, were first put up.—*Local Rec.*

The excellent organ in the church of Norton, in the county of Durham, was the gift of the rev. Christopher Anstey, who was presented to the vicarage in the above year. A valuable painting over the altar was also the gift of Mr. Anstey.—*Surtees.*

The Society of Arts, this year, presented the gold medal to Thomas White, esq. of Retford, in Nottinghamshire, for planting 10,000 English elms upon his estate at Butsfield, in the parish of Lanchester, county of Durham. The following year, the same gentleman received

another gold medal, for planting 37,000 alders upon the same estate ; and in 1788, he was presented with a third gold medal, by the same society, for planting 50,000 oaks on the same estate.—*Local Rec.*

1786.—A presbyterian meeting-house having this year been built in South Shields, near a hill to which the burnt rubbish of a glass-house was led, took fire, and burnt with such unremitting violence as to render every endeavour to extinguish it in vain. It spread itself under the foundation of the meeting-house, which it burnt in such a manner as to leave nothing standing but the east and north wall, with which the roof was propped up. The diligence of the people to save the materials was very great ; and in one day, ten men were carried out nearly suffocated with the sulphur proceeding from the fire under the building.—*Local Papers.*

Wesleyan methodist chapel, Alnwick, (Alnwick, Berwick, and Morpeth) founded. The registers of births and baptisms, 144 entries, extending from 1792 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1787 (Jan. 17).—At the sessions in Newcastle, Hugh Peel, horse-dealer, was convicted of a fraudulent deceit, in putting off a *Scale de Cross note*, of no value, as and for a Newcastle bank-note of the value of £5., to an unlettered person, in part payment of the price of a mare, which Peel had bought of the said person ; for which Peel was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.—*Local Papers.*

January 30.—Some workmen, by accident, discovered in the north side of St. John's church-yard, Newcastle, a few inches below the surface, the body of a female without a head, and only a coarse cloth wrapped round it, part of which was much stained with blood. The coroner's jury sat on the body, and brought in their verdict, *wilful murder* by some person or persons unknown. The body being in a state of great putrefaction, was buried as soon as possible. This extraordinary circumstance gave rise to many conjectures and suspicions, whereby many persons were accused ; the magistrates, therefore, much to their credit, examined the affair with a most scrutinous eye, and, from the mysteriousness of the case, inserted the following advertisement in the Newcastle newspapers :—"The body of a female, supposed by the surgeon coroner, who examined it, to be about fifteen years old, and to have been dead about twelve months, having been found by some labourers, employed in levelling the back part of St. John's church-yard, without a coffin, lightly covered with earth, and in a situation that induced a suspicion of some person being murdered, a REWARD of TWENTY GUINEAS is offered by the corporation of Newcastle to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to a discovery, or to a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances occasioning the suspicion.—*Town Clerk's Office, Feb. 1, 1787.*" In conse-

quence of the above advertisement, the body was taken up, February the 6th, for the inspection of a man and his wife, whose daughter had been a servant in Newcastle, but left her place the preceding April, from which period they had not heard any account of her. On examining the body, it was found so mutilated and putrified, that no distinguishable marks could be discovered; it was, therefore, re-interred as soon as possible. Several persons were examined with respect to the disappearance of a girl about that time, but nothing was elicited to convict any of them.—*Local Rec.*

1786 (February 20).—Died, in Percy street, Newcastle, Elizabeth Ellison, aged 103 years.—*Local Papers.*

March 10.—As some labourers were levelling a piece of ground, near the burn on the west side of Wooler, they discovered in the midst of a large heap of stones, a human skeleton, quite entire, and fenced on each side by a row of flat stones standing on edge, which served to support a large broad one on the top, as a cover, The bones, on being touched, mouldered to dust.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—Died, in Westgate-street, Newcastle, John Rotheram, esq., M. D. Dr. Rotheram was very eminent in the line of his profession, and had a very extensive practice. He gave public lectures in Mr. Parker's long room, in the Bigg-market, Newcastle, on the nature and properties of water, explaining and illustrating the same by a variety of curious and entertaining experiments. Sept. 22, 1770, he published, "A Philosophical Inquiry on the Nature and Properties of Water; with elegant Copper-plate Figures of the several Salts."—*Ibid.*

April 22.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Elizabeth Cowey, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

April 28.—At night, a blacksmith, in a state of intoxication, fell asleep in an open window in Sandgate, Newcastle, from whence he fell into the street, and in falling, a crook caught hold of his jaw-bone, by which he hung till the jaw gave way. He languished till the following evening, when he expired.—*Ibid.*

June.—Two sparrows built their nest upon the topmast of a ship lying at Newcastle Quay, and deposited therein six eggs.—*Ibid.*

July 24.—There was in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, some very heavy falls of rain; for a short time it descended in such torrents as to have the appearance of an immense solid body of water. The river Pont was swelled so much as to carry away several tons of hay from the meadows adjoining it. But consequences of a much more disastrous nature attended the rapid swelling of a small rivulet that runs past Wallbottle. A small arch having been cast over this rivulet, an embankment of earth was formed upon it for the purpose

of making a waggon way from an adjoining colliery ; the arch being to small for the admission of the body of water, and the trees, hay, &c., brought down by it, was soon choaked up, and the water then forming an immense lake in the valley above, at length burst down the embankment, and rolling with an impetuosity scarcely conceivable, instantly carried away an adjoining mill, and a man working in it, was drowned at a moment when he suspected no danger. In its progress to the river Tyne, it carried away three houses at the east end of the village of Newburn, where three people unfortunately lost their lives ; all the houses in the low part of the village were filled with water, and the inhabitants having no apprehension of their danger, escaped with great difficulty.—*Local Papers*.

1787 (July 27).—Being the birth-day of lord Barnard, when his lordship came of age, great rejoicings took place at Raby castle, Darlington, Staindrop, Barnardcastle, &c. &c.—*Ibid*.

August 15.—Died, at his house in Sun Tavern-fields, London, Joseph Reed, well known as a dramatic writer. He was a native of Stockton, and by profession a rope-maker. His first production was "Madrigal and Trulletta," a mock tragedy, acted at Covent-garden in 1758. In 1761 Mr. Reed brought out his "Register Office, a Farce," a piece marked by a strong conception of character, and by a most accurate exhibition of provincial manners and dialect. This piece still keeps possession of the stage, and may be regarded as Reed's *chef d'œuvre*. In 1776 the tragedy of "Dido" was acted during three nights ; but, though not without merit, was never again performed. Mr. Reed's last piece was "Tom Jones," a comic opera, which was acted in Covent-garden in 1769, and well received. Mr. Reed, whose turn for the drama did not prevent his attention to business, preserved through life the character of a sensible, worthy, friendly man. He died in the 65th year of his age, leaving a handsome fortune.—*Surtees*.

Same day, at night, four prisoners escaped out of the gaol of Newcastle, by breaking away the iron bars that enclosed the privy on the east side of the prison.—*Local Papers*.

August 20.—The philanthropic John Howard arrived in Newcastle, on his tour through England and Scotland, on the benevolent purpose of visiting the prisons. Several new regulations which he recommended, the mayor gave orders to be put in immediate execution. He was invited by the chief magistrate to make the mansion-house his home, which he politely declined.—*Ibid*.

This month, died, at Akeld, in Northumberland, Mrs. Kerr, aged 111 years.—*Ibid*.

October 10.—By a great flood in the river Wear, the bridge over

it at Witton-le-Wear, was entirely swept away. Considerable damage was also done to the lands in the neighbourhood that were overflowed by it.—*Local Papers.*

1787 (Oct. 21).—Her grace the duchess of Northumberland arrived at Heaton hall, near Newcastle, one of the seats of sir M. W. Ridley, bart., where her children underwent inoculation for the small-pox. On the 28th his grace joined the family at Heaton, where he staid till the following morning, when he set out for Alnwick castle. At Felton his grace was met by about 200 of his friends, tenants, &c., who accompanied him to Alnwick, where every demonstration of joy was testified by the inhabitants on the arrival of their noble visitor. About 150 gentlemen dined at the castle. An ox was roasted whole in the market-place, three butts of ale were sent from the castle to regale the populace, and two guineas were given to every tavern and alehouse in the town for the same purpose. In the evening the whole town was illuminated, the cannon at the castle were fired, and, in short, the whole day spent in testimonies of esteem for this illustrious family.—*Ibid.*

October 26.—Upwards of five hundred tenants and servants, belonging to the right hon. lord Delaval, assembled at his lordship's seat at Ford castle, where they were entertained with the utmost liberality; fifty of the most seasonable dishes were placed on each table; a large fat ox was prepared; and the liquor which was plentifully supplied, was of the very best quality. One hundred and fifty gallons of rum, eighty gallons of brandy, one hundred and eighty bottles of wine, and several barrels of strong beer were drunk; one bowl of punch contained eighteen gallons of spirits, six stones of sugar, and forty lemons. Many toasts expressive of the highest regard for the noble donor and his family were drank, and the whole was conducted with the greatest harmony and jovialty. The remaining victuals, which weighed upwards of eighty stones, were distributed to the poor inhabitants of the neighbourhood.—*Berwick Museum.*

October.—The stables of Chipchase castle, in Northumberland, took fire; but the doors and windows being partially closed, it was soon extinguished. When the doors were opened next morning, three valuable horses were found to be suffocated, but the other damage done was trifling.—*Local Papers.*

November 24.—A considerable mass of earth coming down from the half-moon battery in the Castle-garth, Newcastle, destroyed some houses at the end of Tyne bridge.—*J. Bell's Col.*

November 29.—About a quarter after five o'clock in the morning, a fiery meteor was seen from Berwick parade. It made a most awful appearance, and flew in a south-east direction. Its magnitude was

like that of the full moon, with a tapering tail like that of a comet. In its motion it emitted large portions of fire.—*Berwick Museum*.

1787.—Thomas Thurlow, bishop of Lincoln, was translated to the see of Durham. Bishop Thurlow was the second son of the rev. Thomas Thurlow of Ashfield in Suffolk; fellow of Magdalen college in Oxford, and rector of Stanhope in the county of Durham, 1771. In 1773 he was promoted to the mastership of the Temple, and to the deanery of Rochester in 1777. In 1779, he was consecrated bishop of Lincoln; and held with the bishopric the deanery of St. Paul's. He only held the see of Durham during four years, dying in London, May 27, 1791.—*Surtees*.

The honourable Mr. Raby Vane, this year, made the parish of Staindrop a present of six bells, cast for the purpose in London; and the right honourable the earl of Darlington, presented the same church with an excellent organ, the organist of which was also appointed and paid by the same peer.—*Local Papers*.

Ebenezer chapel (Independent), Hexham, founded this year. The register of births and baptisms, extending from 1787 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1788 (Jan. 12).—The curious roof of the elegant new church of All Saints, in Newcastle, was completed and excited great admiration. The scaffolding was put up, taken down, and the whole of this extraordinary piece of work completed in six weeks, in very bad weather, and when the days were at the shortest.—*Local Rec.*

January 18.—The new bells in the newly-erected steeple of North Shields (Tynemouth) church, were rung for the first time, and in honour of the queen's birth day. The steeple was built by subscription.—*Local Papers*.



DOORWAY, JARROW MONASTERY.

CHAPTER XIV.



IS majesty's licence having been obtained, the new theatre-royal, which had just been erected on the north side of Mosley street, Newcastle, was opened on the evening of the 21st of January 1788, with the comedy of "The Way to keep Him," and "The Sultan." Among the performers were Cooke, Munden, Whitlock, &c., &c. The season was closed with the comic opera of "Inkle and Yarico," and the farce of "The Midnight Hour." The season consisted of forty-one nights, which produced £2700. The scenes, which were painted by Mr. Edward Edwards, justly met with the utmost approbation. Mr. Edwards (who was afterwards associate and teacher of perspective in the royal academy), whilst in Newcastle, made drawings of the Exchange, Westgate, &c., which were engraved for Brand's history of Newcastle. This theatre was erected by shares of £30. each. There were 129 subscribers, which produced £3870.—*Local Rec.*

This month a light-house was erected at Blyth, at the expence of sir M. W. Ridley, bart.—*Local Papers.*

This month, a whale, found on the coast, by the master of a ship, was brought into Sunderland harbour. It measured sixty-four feet in length, and its mouth opened upwards of ten-feet wide. His bones were flat and broad, and stood very close together. The size of his eye was about six inches diameter, but appeared small in its common situation. The girt of his body was sixty-two feet. He was most beautifully ridged from his shoulder to the lower end of his belly. He had only two fins, which were placed on each shoulder; they were of a very thick, hard substance, being about five feet long, and twenty-one inches broad. His blast (or blather head) that came out of his mouth, was not less than a room of fifteen feet square, and it

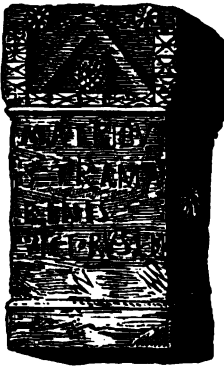
was no other than the tongue and lining of his under jaw, which he had a power of throwing out, to enable him to breathe when asleep. The fat or blubber, upon his back, was nine inches thick. His tail was twelve feet four inches over, but could not expand and contract like those of other fish. He was sold to three tradesmen of Sunderland for fifty guineas. The blubber, and other parts for oil, filled twelve pipes.—*Univ. Mag.*

1788 (April 1).—In the morning, a dreadful fire broke out in the tobacco and snuff manufactory at Chimney-mills, near Newcastle, which, together with the stock in trade, and all the valuable machinery, were totally consumed; the wind being exceedingly high, communicated the flames to the adjoining dwelling-houses, which produced a truly melancholy scene of distress. It was not got under until a considerable part of the dwelling-houses and furniture of the inhabitants were consumed, especially those of the workmen belonging to the manufactory. This was believed to have been the work of an incendiary, and a reward of £200 was offered in the May following, for the apprehension of the offender.—*J. Bell's Col.*

May 16.—Died, at Whitby, Mr. Lionel Charlton, an eminent mathematician. He was born on the 22nd Dec. 1720, at Upper Stobbilee, in the parish of Bellingham, Northumberland. Mr. C. who it appears was lame from his youth, after being some years at a free grammar school, attended the university of Edinburgh for one or two seasons. About the year 1748 he settled in Whitby as a teacher and land-surveyor. In addition to a thorough knowledge of mathematics, and of the Latin language, he had some acquaintance with the French, and his school, which was for many years the principal one in Whitby, produced a number of excellent scholars. It was towards the close of his life, when he had long been acquainted with the affairs of Whitby and vicinity, that he undertook the arduous task of writing a history of the town and abbey. Several years were spent in unwearied perseverance in collecting materials for his history, which was published in 1779, in one volume, quarto, with illustrations. It was the first history of that town, and does great credit to the learning and industry of the author.—*Local Rec.*

May 24.—A melancholy accident happened at Tanfield-hall (a very ancient seat of the Spearman family, but then occupied by farmers), occasioned by the sudden falling in of the roof thereof, which unfortunately buried two children, at play on the ground floor, in the ruins. The crash being heard by a person going past the place, he, on examining into the cause, was led by the groans of one of the children, to remove with the greatest alacrity a considerable part of the materials, and happily disengaged that child alive, but much bruised; the

other having been instantly crushed to death by the great mass of rubbish from under which it was dug out.—*Local Papers.*



1788 (June 3).—At this period Brand records the discovery of a fine Roman altar at Risingham in the parish of Elsdon, Northumberland. It is read thus :—"Matribus tramarinus Julius Victor votum solvit libens merito,"—implying that Julius Victor freely and duly in the performance of a vow dedicated this altar to some of the matres, or deified women, whom the Germans and Britons, as well as the Romans worshipped.—*Brand.*

June 11.—The Royal assent was given to an act to enlarge an act for building Tyne-bridge.—

Local Papers.

The Royal assent was also given on the same day, to an act for regulating the Keelmen's fund.—*J. Bell's Col.*

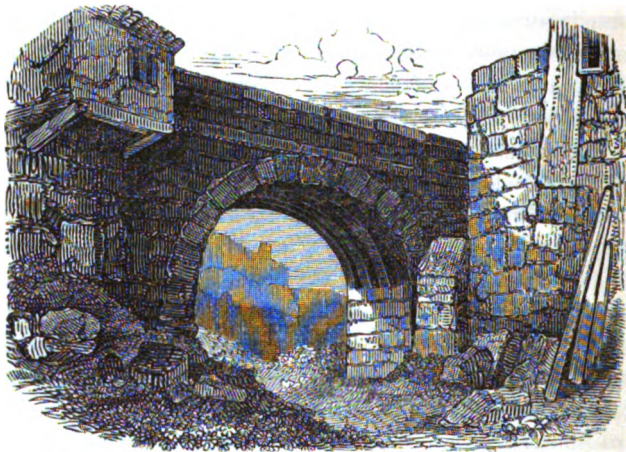
June 27.—As the rev. Mr. Warrilow, Roman Catholic priest of Newcastle, was going into the boxes of the theatre of that place, a man genteelly dressed came up to him, and attempted to take his watch out of his pocket, but having pulled it in an oblique direction, it stuck fast, and Mr. Warrilow perceiving his intention, laid hold of his arm; he, however, immediately got it disengaged, and walked up into the green boxes, where he stood looking on the stage till Mr. Warrilow went to him and accused him of the attempt, which he denied with great firmness and hauteur, and affected to be much insulted by the suspicion; he then walked down stairs and into the opposite green box, but seeing Mr. Warrilow determined not to leave him, he went again down stairs and walked carelessly out of the theatre. Mr. Warrilow having then procured a constable, he was apprehended in Drury Lane. He underwent an immediate examination before Mr. Alderman Rudman, and being unwilling to give any satisfactory account of himself, he was committed to the custody of a serjeant at mace till next morning, when he was again examined before the court of aldermen. He there said that his name was Jones, but that circumstance being doubted, a sailor was brought into court, who made oath that he knew him to be the renowned pick-pocket Barrington; he was thereupon committed to Newgate, and intelligence sent off to the public office in Bow-street, an advertisement having been published from thence, charging him with having picked the pocket of Haviland le Mesurier, esq., of twenty guineas and a-half, and offering a reward of five guineas on his commitment. Barrington was acquitted of this robbery. Sept. 22nd, 1790, he was tried for stealing a gold

watch, chain, and seals, from Henry Hare Townsend, esq., and sentenced to be transported to Botany Bay, where he rose to considerable eminence.—*Local Rec.*

1788 (Aug. 6).—John and Robert Winter, the father and son, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentence, for breaking open the house of William Charlton, esq., of Hesleyside; as they had lived for many years in a course of the most daring and shameless villainy, so at their death, they testified the most brutal want of feeling, fear, or compunction.—*Local Papers.*

August 28.—Thomas Morton one of the guards of the Royal Mail coach, undertook, for a considerable wager, to throw a stone over the highest vane of the steeple of St. Nicholas church, in Newcastle, which he accomplished with ease at the fourth throw, the stone being seen several feet above the highest pinnacle of the steeple, which is 194 feet high.—*Ibid.*

September 22.—The fishermen belonging to Cullercoats, caught two young sharks off that place; they had each two rows of teeth, and measured near six feet in length.—*Ibid.*



NETHER-DEAN BRIDGE.

This month, the arch of the Low bridge, or Nether-dean-bridge, which formed a communication between Pilgrim-street and St. Nicholas' church-yard, over the Dean, Newcastle, was taken down, in order to form and open Dean-street. This bridge was strongly cramped with iron, and was evidently of Roman work. Mr. Bourne says, "this bridge is chiefly famous because the *Roman wall* went along it."—*Brand.*

October 18.—The first number of a newspaper, entitled "The

Newcastle Advertiser." was published in Newcastle by Mr. Matthew Brown. After Mr. Brown's death in 1803, it was purchased by John Thompson and Charles Hutchinson, and afterwards by John Thompson. On the 3rd of October, 1811, it was sold to Mr. Edward Humble, bookseller, who tried different days of publication, under the new title of "The Freeman's Weekly Post," and for some time with a second title of "The General Hue and Cry." At last this paper was discontinued in Newcastle, and "The Durham County Advertiser" arose from it.—*Local Rec.*

1788 (Oct).—A new peal of bells, eight in number, (cast by William and Thomas Mears, London) was hung in Gateshead church; and on Saturday the 18th of the same month, a complete half peal of grandsire triples, consisting of 2520 changes, was rung in one hour and forty-eight minutes, by the Union Society of ringers from Newcastle.—*Local Papers.*

November 5.—Being the centenary of the glorious revolution, it was observed at Newcastle, Durham, Sunderland, Shields, Morpeth, &c., with every demonstration of joy. Many parties of gentlemen met in various inns in Newcastle, to celebrate the event.—*Vint and Anderson's Newc.*

November 9.—This day (Sunday), during divine service in the afternoon, a dreadful fire broke out in the house of Mr. Sweet, baker in the Castle-garth, Newcastle, which entirely consumed the same, together with 53 sacks of flour, and a considerable sum of money.—*Local Papers.*

November.—This month the pavement at the head of the side, Newcastle, was lowered four feet.—*J. Bell's Col.*

This year, Grindon church, in the county of Durham, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket was nearly rebuilt, and the lead roof replaced with slate. The structure consists of a nave and chancel, without tower or aisles. Near the centre of the floor are two blue slabs laid close together. A late search proved that two persons only had been interred here. Beneath the floor was virgin soil and strong clay, unmixed with any mouldering reliques of mortality, till at the depth of six feet, two ponderous oak coffins were discovered fast decaying amidst the wet undrained clay.—*Surtees.*

This year, Postern chapel, (Independent) Newcastle, founded. The register of births and baptisms extending from 1788 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

1789 (Jan).—A flight of swans, thirteen in number, alighted in the Derwent, near to Milk-house-burn. It is probable that they were a flock resting on their immigration to a more southern climate, being driven from the north by the severe weather.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1789 (Jan. 12).—In the evening, during a severe frost, a coble, with three women and one man in it, was inclosed by the ice in the middle of the river Tyne, near Newcastle, where it remained till next morning, when the people were got ashore in a most terrible situation, but by proper care, they were all perfectly recovered. On the 13th there was a most dreadful storm of wind, accompanied with heavy showers of snow. In the afternoon several ships were driven from their moorings. The Merchant, of Newcastle, and the Berwick, of Perth, were driven from below the Low-crane, to within a few yards of the bridge, where they were providentially stopped by the ice; three keels and a boat were driven against them, the latter of which was split in pieces. At the lower part of the quay all the ships were driven foul of each other, and sustained considerable damage. Three keels were driven against the easternmost ships with such violence as to be thrown upon each other. Several other misfortunes occurred in the river Tyne.—*Local Papers.*

This month, a hen pheasant flew down a chimney, in the Hare and Hounds, public-house, on the Quayside. It was presented to sir Henry George Liddell, bart., from whose covers it had most probably strayed.—*Gillespy's Col.*

February 7.—Died, in the Freeman's Hospital, in the Manor Chare, Newcastle, Mrs. Finlay, widow, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

February 15.—In the evening of this day (Sunday), a melancholy accident happened at a public-house in Newcastle. John Elliott, whitesmith, went into a room where a number of people were sitting, and began in a very illiberal manner to abuse several in the company, one of whom, Thomas Atkinson, tailor, returning him a smart but just retort, he (Elliott) threw a pot of beer he held in his hand on Atkinson's face, and immediately ran out of the room; the insulted party soon after followed him, and a scuffle, it was supposed, happened between them in the yard, where Elliott was found much bruised, with his leg broken in a shocking manner. He was sent to the Infirmary, where every means used for his recovery proved ineffectual, as a fever and mortification took place, and he died on the Wednesday evening in great agony. Coroner's verdict—*manslaughter*. At the assizes, held in Newcastle, in August, Thomas Atkinson was fined 6s. 8d. and discharged. Elliott left a widow and three children. One of these, a hatter, was tried for setting fire to the premises in which he had a sale shop.—*Local Rec.*

March 19.—In Newcastle, the illuminations for his majesty's restoration to health after his severe indisposition, began about seven o'clock, and continued till eleven, during which time the utmost harmony and good order were observed by the almost innumerable

spectators of the various devices and transparencies that were produced on the occasion. Among the foremost was the Mansion-house: a fine transparency of the sun; underneath, Neptune triumphant, Commerce, the King and Britannia, with the motto, "*God Save the King*," the Queen and *Virtue Rewarded*; the Prince of Wales, and *Ich Dien*. The Theatre: Britannia and the Sovereign, with a view of Newcastle, in the back ground, and "*Long Live the King*." Alderman Rudman: the King, motto, "*Pater Patriæ*;" the Lord Chancellor, "*When I forget, may heaven forget me*;" Mr. Pitt, "*The dignity of the Sovereign, and the just rights of the people*;" under the figure of Hope, "*Securitas*." The front of the house of Mr. George Anderson (late Anderson place) was an universal blaze; above 800 candles being displayed in it. At most of the neighbouring towns, similar rejoicings took place.—*Local Papers*.

1789 (March 30).—A very numerous party of general Lambton's friends assembled at Chester-le-Street, to celebrate the event of his having succeeded to the entire property of Flatts estate and colliery, which formerly belonged to a branch of the Allans, of Grange. The bells were rung, a *feu de joie* was fired by a party of his majesty's dragoons quartered there, and several barrels of ale were distributed to the populace. The evening concluded with a general illumination.—*Ibid*.

May 26.—A large and elegant new house, at Howdon Pans, on the river Tyne, belonging to Mr. Lionel Robson, of the Broad chare, Newcastle, was entirely consumed by fire. The flames were communicated to the bowsprit of a ship then building, which was immediately cut off to prevent their spreading further.—*Ibid*.

The same day, the foundation stone of the independent meeting-house at Hexham, was laid, and an excellent sermon was preached on the occasion, by the rev. Thomas Robinson, of that place.—*Ibid*.

June 15.—The prisoners in Morpeth gaol attempted to make their escape; they had gotten their irons sawed off, broke open the inner door of the prison, knocked down the turnkey, and on the gaoler's entrance, finding they could not escape, they took him prisoner, and made fast the door of their apartment. Fortunately a party of artillery were then in the town, by whose assistance, they were quelled and properly secured.—*Gillespy's Col*.

June 22.—The body of Christopher Milburn was found floating in the river Tyne, near Haughton castle. This unfortunate man was lost on the 23rd of January preceding, in a water called Tarry-burn. One of his legs was torn off by the knee, and what is very remarkable, he had not any clothes left upon him but one stocking, although, when lost, he was entirely clothed.—*Ibid*.

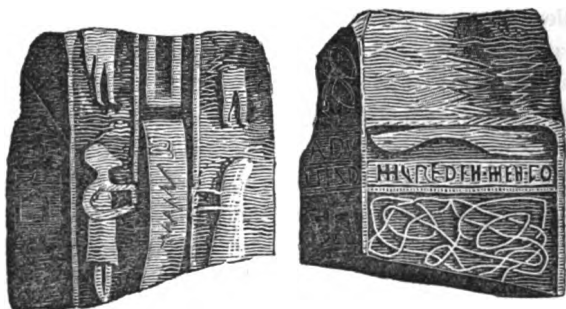
1789 (June).—As some boys were fishing in a small burn near Ebchester, in the county of Durham, they discovered the body of a child buried in the mud, and a stake driven through its body into the earth. They immediately went to the village and gave notice to some people, who went in search of it, but it had been removed in the interim. This was the third child found dead in that neighbourhood within a few months; and it is remarkable that no enquiries whatever were made, that might lead to a discovery of the perpetrators. Owing, it was supposed, to there being no gentleman in the commission of the peace, within ten or twelve miles distance.—*Gillespy's Col.*

July 16.—Died, that eminently pious and good man, the rev. John Rotheram, rector of Houghton-le-Spring, Durham. He was the son of a clergyman, and born at Haydon-bridge, in Northumberland, June 22, 1725. After completing his education under his father, who was head master of the grammar-school in that village, he became a member of Queen's College, Oxford, in 1745. In 1749, Mr. Rotheram sailed for Barbadoes, where his brother had resided for some years, and whilst there, he produced a work entitled "*The Force of the Argument for the Truth of Christianity, drawn from a collective View of Prophecy*," occasioned by a controversy concerning Bishop Sherlock's Discourses on Prophecy. His next work was "*A Sketch of the one great Argument formed from the general concurring Evidence for the Truth of Christianity*." In 1757 Mr. Rotheram, arrived on his native shore, and in the next year entered upon the curacy of Tottenham High Cross. In 1759, he published "*An Apology for the Athanasian Creed*." In 1766, appeared his most admired work, "*An Essay on Faith and its Connexion with Good Works*." This produced him the patronage of the archbishop of York, through whose recommendation to the bishop of Durham, he obtained the rectory of Ryton, and who also made him one of his chaplains. He was in great favour with his patron, Dr. Trevor, bishop of Durham, and lived constantly with his lordship during his residence at Durham, or Auckland castle. In 1769, his lordship presented him with the valuable living of Houghton-le-Spring. Being on a visit to his friend, Dr. Sharp, at Bamborough castle, he was there struck with the palsy, and expired in the presence of that excellent man on the morning of the above day. He lies buried at Houghton-le-Spring, beside his brother, where a marble tablet is erected to their memory. There is a good portrait of Mr. Rotheram, painted by Sykes and engraved by J. Stow, prefixed to his memoirs, written by the late rev. Richard Wallis, vicar of Seaham, and from which the above particulars are gleaned.

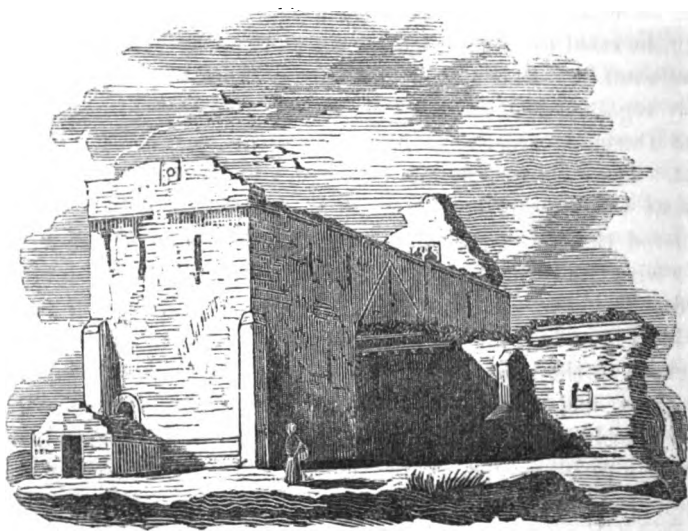
The counties of Northumberland and Durham were visited in the

month of July this year, by a series of violent thunder storms, accompanied with very heavy showers of rain. They began in the immediate neighbourhood of Newcastle on the 17th, where the lightnings were extremely vivid, and the thunder loud and tremendous. On the morning of the 18th it commenced raining heavily, and continued with but little intermission during the whole of that and the following day. On the 19th, the river Tyne and several of its branches being much swollen, brought down large quantities of hay that had been cut on the grounds adjoining them. Many of the haughs by the side of the Tyne having been overflowed, the crops of hay and corn growing upon them were nearly destroyed. At Hexham, on the 21st, very great damage was sustained. The incessant flashes of lightning and peals of thunder were really dreadful: the rain, intermixed with hailstones of an immense size, descended as from a water-spout, forming upon the whole, a scene awful and tremendous. The lower part of the town, from the uncommon swelling of a brook, was laid in a great measure under water; and the inhabitants with difficulty saved their lives, whilst their effects were in the most distressing situation. Several garden walls were thrown down, and the gardens (stored with abundance) were totally laid waste and destroyed. Two capital tan-yards suffered to a large amount; and the wreck it made exhibited an affecting and melancholy spectacle. On the 23rd, the river Wear was so much swollen that the mail-coach was obliged to wait upwards of seven hours till it was passable at the north end of Sunderland bridge. A man who was riding along the part of the road that was overflowed, was driven with his horse into the field adjoining, where he was disengaged from the animal, and having regained the railing, he staid there till a person with a horse came to his assistance, and relieved him from the most imminent danger; the horse had previously regained the shore. Considerable damage, was done in the city of Durham, which was flooded in many places to a considerable height. It was extremely distressing to see the immense quantities of hay that was carried down the river; more especially, when it was considered that what remained uncut within reach of the flood, together with the corn, in the same situation was also nearly totally destroyed. The river was more swollen than at any time since the great flood in 1771. In the vicinity of Chester-le-street, all the low-lands contiguous to the river were overflowed, and much damage done to the corn, grass, and other lands, by it and the rivulets in that neighbourhood. The Iron forge-mill, belonging to Messrs. Hawks and Co., situate on a small rivulet at Braken-hill, near Chester-le-Street, was entirely swept away by the rapidity of the flood; the damage was computed to be upwards of £800. A skin-mill, adjoining the forge,

was at the same time swept away; also a new bridge lately built by the earl of Scarborough, across the same rivulet, near Lumley castle. The inhabitants, of the lower part of the town of Chester-le-Street, were thrown into great consternation. Several of the houses were flooded with water to a great height, and the passage of the bridge was stopped for some time.—*Gillespy's Col.*



1789 (July).—There was discovered near the ruins of the ancient church of Alnmouth, Northumberland, a stone which had probably been part of a very antique cross. Views of the two sides of the stone are here represented from drawings by Brand. The relic is now at Alnwick castle. The church was commonly called “Woden’s church,” and seventy years ago, a great part of the structure was standing; but the sea has been encroaching for a like period and hardly a vestige now remains.—*Archæologia.*



ALNMOUTH CHURCH, 1773.

1789 (August 5).—Robert Brough, a butcher, was killed by a bull at the White Cross, Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

August 9.—Sunday, a man had both his breeches pockets picked in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, during divine service.—*Gillespy's Col.*

August 20.—The foundation stone of Ridley-hall-bridge, was laid by John Lowes, esq., at the depth of nine feet below the surface. Mr. and Mrs. Lowes each made the workmen a handsome present on the occasion.—*Local Papers*.

August 21.—Two of the prisoners under sentence of transportation in the gaol of Newcastle, made their escape at twelve o'clock in the day, by letting themselves down by a rope on the east side of the prison. One of them sprained his leg and was taken the same day in Gallowgate. The other was afterwards taken in the Manor Chare.—*Gillespy's Col.*

August 24.—The house of the parish-clerk of Kirknewton, in Northumberland, was entirely burnt down. The fire was occasioned by a woman looking under the bed with a lighted candle. The family lost all their furniture and clothes, and all the parish records were consumed.—*Local Papers*.

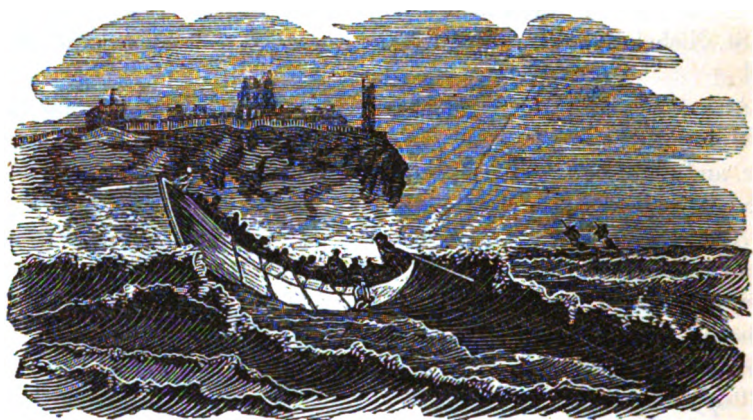
August 26.—Thomas Young, aged 24, convicted at the Northumberland assizes of a highway robbery, near Glenwhelt, was executed on the Fair-moor near Morpeth. Previous to the execution of this awful sentence he behaved with becoming resignation and fortitude.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 10.—At night, as the coachman of D. R. Grieve, esq., of Swarland, was returning from Warkworth with an empty carriage, he unfortunately drove over a precipice into a stone quarry, near Brainshaugh, and was killed on the spot; the horses were also killed, and the chaise broken to pieces.—*Local Papers*.

September 15.—On the evening of this day, a fire broke out in a stable belonging to the Black-bull inn, Hexham, by which one horse was suffocated, and two others were with difficulty recovered: it was however got under without any other material damage being done. It was occasioned by the hostler having left a candle burning in the socket of a lanthorn.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 26.—Saturday, Mr. James Leyburn, of Ryton, being with some friends in a public-house in Newcastle, in a fit of insanity seized a knife and cut his throat, and almost immediately expired; and on the following Monday, a girl, servant to a gentleman in Pilgrim street, was found hanging in a garret: after being cut down, means were used for her recovery, but they proved ineffectual. It is a melancholy truth, that the coroners for that town had been summon-

ed to attend twenty-one cases of *suicide* within the previous twelve months.—*Gillespy's Col.*



1789 (Sept.)—The original life boat was built at South Shields by subscription, under the direction and inspection of Messrs. H. Heath, Michael Rockwood, Cuthbert Marshall, W. Masterman, Jos. Roxby, and Nicholas Fairles. The latter gentleman was their chairman. The scheme was suggested by the melancholy loss of the crew of the *Adventure*, of Newcastle, in the above month. The men dropped from her rigging, one by one, exhausted by cold and fatigue, as she lay stranded on the Herd-sand, near the entrance of the harbour, in the midst of tremendous breakers, in the presence of thousands of spectators, not one of whom could be prevailed on by any rewards to venture out to her assistance in any boat or coble of the common construction. The above committee was formed in consequence, and various plans were presented for attaining the proposed object—the construction of a boat calculated to brave the dangers of the sea, particularly of broken water. The preference was unanimously given to Mr. Henry Greathead, as the builder, who suggested the material improvement of making the keel *curved* instead of *straight*. The *LIFE BOAT* was first used on the 30th of January, 1790, when several seamen were brought off in safety from a wreck in the offing. The crew of the life boat were provided on this first trial, with cork jackets, but the precaution was totally needless. Since the above period several hundreds of lives have been saved at the mouth of the Tyne alone, and the life boat, with various improvements or alterations, has been adopted in almost every port of Great Britain. In consequence of the extensive application of the principal of the life boat, Mr. Greathead received several flattering compliments from persons of the highest rank; in particular, a diamond ring from the late emperor of Russia.

He also received a parliamentary grant of £1,200, and one hundred guineas from the Trinity-house. &c.—*Surtees*.

1789 (Oct. 13).—Gold and silver medals, given by Nicholas Ridley, esq., were shot for in the Carliol Croft, Newcastle, by the bowmen of Chevy Chase; the competitors were Nicholas Ridley, Richard Wilson, Aubone Surtees, and Joseph Forster, esqrs. The silver medal was won by Mr. Wilson, that of gold remained a subject of contest for a future day.—*Local Papers*.

October 29.—The Circus or Amphitheatre, at the Forth, Newcastle, was first opened under the direction of Messrs. Jones and Parker, equestrians from London, to a brilliant audience. It was built under the direction of Mr. David Stephenson. The very curious roof was constructed by the late Mr. Bulmer, builder.—*Ibid*.

October 31.—As the rev. Mr. Bainbridge of Kirkmerrington, was returning from Darlington, in the darkness of the evening, a post boy rode against him and staked his horse, by which both it and the driver were killed on the spot.—*Gillespy's Col*.

October 31.—Twenty-three sail of ships were lost,* and about three hundred seamen perished. Of this number, seven vessels belonged to Shields, and five to Newcastle.† This melancholy event, which occurred near Hasbro', Norfolk, awakened the attention of the ship-owners in the north to the consideration of means to prevent the like calamity in future, which was happily effected by a plan for lighting Hasbro' Gatt, projected and submitted to the Trinity-house, Deptford Strond, by Mr. Henry Taylor of North Shields.—*Taylor's Narrative*. *Lon*, 1796.

November 5.—According to the Newcastle Chronicle, though the Gentlemen's Magazine says the 18th, died in London, Thomas Bedingfield. He was the son of Edward Bedingfield, esq., of York; his mother was Mary, daughter of sir J. Swinburne of Capheaton, in Northumberland. He was born at York, on the 18th of February, 1760; and was sent for education to Liege, in Germany, where he studied the languages about six years. On his return to England, he exhibited a sound judgment in the study of the law, an admirable talent for poetry, and great liveliness of conversation. In December 1780, he was placed in the office of the late John Davison, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with a view to the study of conveyancing; here he met with George Pickering, a clerk in the office of about four years standing, and about two years after, with James Ellis of Hexham, who together with the sons of the above Mr. Davison, formed a lit-

* Forty-two ships were drove on shore, twenty-three of which were totally lost.

† Upwards of £1200 were subscribed at Newcastle, for the relief of the widows of seamen drowned on this occasion.

erary junto not very common in a law office: a soil generally supposed to be as unfavourable to poetry as to a plant that shall be nameless. In 1784, Bedingfield removed to Lincoln's Inn, where he continued the study of the law under that eminent conveyancer, Matthew Duane, esq., and his nephew Mr. Bray. Toward the latter end of 1787, he commenced practice as a chamber council (being a Roman Catholic, and as such incapable by the then existing state of the law, of the privilege of the English bar) and was rising rapidly in his profession, when his own hopes and those of his friends were terminated by his death: after which event, some of his poems were published in London, under the title of 'Poems by T. B—g—d, esq., of the Inner Temple;' which publication is spoken of as surreptitious, by a correspondent of the Monthly Magazine, in 1800. Fifteen years after, they were collected and published by James Ellis, one of his youthful associates, but subsequently residing at Otterburne; together with the poems of George Pickering, and a few of his own compositions, with a dedication to Walter Scott, esq., and a preface of affected modesty. Bedingfield's poetry is of a character which has no great claim to public attention; and if not esteemed when new, will never be much read afterwards. The piece best known perhaps, is called 'Instructions to a Porter,' which has appeared in several collections. The most laboured of his performances is 'The Triumph of Beauty,' addressed to the duchess of Devonshire on her successful canvass for Charles James Fox, in 1784, a compliment which however, her ladyship did not choose to have published at that period, and which from its ephemeral nature could never be justly appreciated afterwards. In an elegy to his friend Pickering, which contains some touching lines, and betrays a morbid sensibility, he concludes thus—

'My drooping heart

Pants for the night eternal of the tomb.'

a sentiment which might have been pardoned, though undeserving of admiration, even in a pagan poet. Bedingfield is described as one of the best tempered of men; he is said to have argued upon any subject in which he felt himself interested, with an earnestness and fervour almost tumultuous, and that occasioned many a smile, and much good natured railery amongst his friends. In person he is said to have resembled his celebrated contemporary William Pitt so much, as sometimes to have been mistaken for him, by the London populace.—*Compiled from Ellis' Memoir by Jos. Ridley.*

1789 (Nov. 5).—The cordwainers of Newcastle, according to annual custom, made a grand procession through the streets of that town and Gateshead, in honour of King Crispin. On the 12th of the same month the glass makers made a similar exhibition. From this year

the cordwainer's procession was discontinued until 1823, when it was again repeated.—*Local Papers, &c.*

1789 (Nov. 15).—The body of a woman named Ann Brown, about thirty years of age, was found in Stepney-lane, near Newcastle, mangled in a manner too shocking for relation, two men named Jamieson and Scott, were apprehended on suspicion, but the evidence obtained was not sufficient to convict them of the murder, and after being kept in confinement some weeks, they were acquitted of the charge, and Fletcher Reynoldson, and Robert Gray, two keelmen were apprehended for the same offence, of which they confessed being guilty, each reciprocally charging the other with the actual commission of the murder. At the assizes in August 1790, *no Bill* was found.—*Gillespy's Col.*

November 16.—In the evening of this day (Monday), the right rev. Thomas Thurlow, lord Bishop of Durham, arrived in Newcastle, and by an invitation from the right worshipful Hugh Hornby, esq., mayor, was entertained at the mansion-house, and on the following morning, at eleven o'clock, his lordship proceeded to the newly erected church of All Saints, to consecrate the same for divine service. The usual prayers of consecration were read with great solemnity. An excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Hugh Moises, lecturer of the said church, and rector of Greystock, in Cumberland; his text was from Leviticus, chap. xix. ver. 30. After divine service, the mayor gave a grand entertainment to the bishop, the clergy then in town, the trustees for building the church, the church-wardens, and a number of other gentlemen. The pews,* columns, and ornaments, of this beautiful fabric, are all of mahogany, and collectively, convey the highest idea of magnificence and grandeur. In the preceding September, the sittings in this church were sold by auction. Some single seats of 18 inches in breadth, sold for £8, 12s. each. The corporation of the Trinity-house, paid 500 guineas for 52 seats.—*Local Papers.*

November 17.—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, Newcastle, of which he was the keeper, Mr. William Umfraville. His father, Mr. Thomas Umfraville, who died June 28th, 1783, was for 40 years pariah clerk of St. John's, in that town, and had formerly been a merchant there. He was a descendant of one of the greatest names and most illustrious families in the north. The pedigree traces back the family to Robert de Umfraville, called Robert with the Beard, lord of Tours and Vian, who came into England with William the

* The pews, &c. &c., were originally intended to have been wainscot. Mrs. Baker, and her sister, Mrs. Atlee, who were then living in the pariah, made up the difference of the cost.

Conqueror. This Robert had a grant from the Conqueror, in the tenth year of his reign, of the valley of Ridda, or Redesdale, with all its castles, woods, and franchises, to hold of him and his heirs for ever, by the service of defending that part of the country from wolves and the king's enemies by the sword which the said king William wore at his side when he entered Northumberland. Mr. William Umfraville had, in his custody, a sword, which belonged to sir Robert Umfraville, vice-admiral of England, about the time of Richard II. Mr. Umfraville, died in very indigent circumstances, leaving a widow, with an only son and daughter, without any means of support. The late duke of Northumberland, hearing that a descendant of the once-powerful family of the Umfravilles had died in such humble circumstances, kindly allowed an annuity to the widow, and undertook the charge of educating and providing for the son, John Brand Umfraville, for whom, when of a proper age, his grace obtained the situation of midshipman in the royal navy. He ultimately rose to the rank of captain, and died a few years ago without issue.—*Rambles in Northd.*

1798.—The sulphur spring at Dinsdale, Durham, was accidentally discovered by workmen employed by the late Mr. Lambton, in searching for coal; after they had bored to the depth of 72 feet, chiefly through what they called red rock and whinstone, the spring suddenly burst forth, accompanied by so tremendous a smoke and sulphureous stench, that they were obliged, (or at least were so affrighted as) to relinquish their operations in that place during several weeks. The remarkable qualities of the water attracted the attention of some others of Mr. Lambton's work-people, who dug out a bath in the course of the stream; and one of them who had been a number of years afflicted with a chronic rheumatism, by bathing and drinking the water, had the use of his limbs perfectly restored. The cure was quickly noised abroad among the surrounding villages, and people flocked eagerly to the wonder-working well; and its extraordinary effects in curing several chronic complaints, more especially of the rheumatic and cutaneous kinds, added daily to its celebrity. In the year 1797, a house was built for the convenience of cold bathing, but it was soon found that further accommodations were wanted, and a few years ago the present beautiful and convenient suite of baths were erected. The Spa is surrounded by a beautiful plantation, which, to the westward, extends upwards of a mile along the north bank of the river Tees, intersected with shaded walks, in which seats are placed at intervals, forming a cool and delightful ramble for the invalid—the botanist—the student—or the admirer of nature's varied works. Above the plantation, or rather crowning its woody eminence, stands the *Dinsdale Hotel* which was opened in the year 1829, and



SPA HOTEL, DINSDALE.

from this point the view is magnificently grand. The eye wanders over the rich and delightful vale of Cleveland,—a highly cultivated tract of country, which has not inappropriately been called “The Garden of Yorkshire,” through which the “Murmuring Tees” winds and meanders, until lost in the distance, where the Cleveland and Hambleton hills furnish a noble back-ground to a luxuriant picture.—*Guide to Dinsdale, &c.*

1789.—This year, died at Berwick, William Addison, gardener, aged 101, years. Also, died at the same place, Thomas Morrison, gardener, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

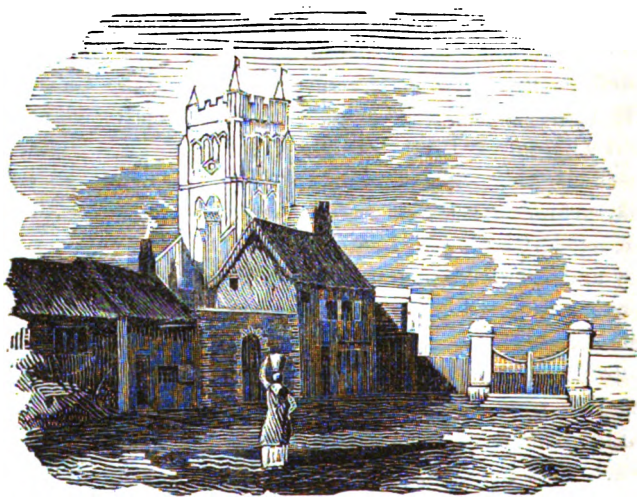
Mosley and Dean streets, in Newcastle, were this year formed by arching over the Lort-burn to the extent of about 300 yards. This burn runs across Mosley street, and under Dean street at a depth of from 20 to 25 feet below the level of the present surface.—*Ibid, &c.*

About this time an unfortunate woman of the city of Durham, named Jane Ramshaw, was decoyed from her house at night and murdered. This horrid deed caused a great sensation, and several persons were examined before the magistrates, but the perpetrator of it was never brought to justice. There was a rumour that a soldier on his death-bed, on the continent, confessed that he was the murderer,—*Ibid.*

The meeting-house in Gilligate, Hexham, was built by the Wesleyans, and the founder of Methodism preached in it very soon after. It continued to be the place of worship for that body till 1839, when they built their new chapel. They then sold it to the seceders, its present occupants, who have John Boyd for their minister. This congregation had previously occupied an old Roman catholic chapel, which was afterwards turned into a mill-wright's shop.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

1790 (Feb.)—The workmen employed in clearing away the rubbish at the top of the new street, then forming in Gateshead, found a great number of Roman coins, inclosed in an urn. Many of the coins having got into the hands of the workmen, could not be recovered; but several of them, in good preservation, of the Emperor Hadrian, were in the possession of the late David Stephenson, esq., architect.—*Local Rec.*

March 20.—This day, in the morning, between twelve and one o'clock, a fire was discovered in the stack-yard and barn of Mr. Hopper, farmer, at Axwell-hall, near Winlaton mill, which continued to burn with great violence for some time, consuming the barn and byer, with two stacks of corn, and five fine cows. The fire was supposed to have happened by a man imprudently going with a naked candle in his hand into Mr. Hopper's stack-yard, where much loose straw was lying, in search of a game cock. Unhappily no part of the property was insured.—*Gillespy's Col.*



AT HARTLEPOOL.

This month, in digging a grave in the church yard, at Hartlepool, a stone coffin was discovered, containing the body of a man, which appeared to be quite entire. It seemed he had been buried with his clothes, boots, &c. on, but as soon as exposed to the air, it immediately mouldered to dust, excepting the soles of his boots, which were cut in pieces and distributed as a great curiosity.—*Local Papers.*

April 13.—An alarming fire broke out in Monkwearmouth, which destroyed three houses. The fire raged with great fury for near four hours, and by the exertions of the populace, was extinguished and

happily no lives were lost; but most of the furniture and clothes of the respective families, and a considerable sum in bank notes were consumed. The fire broke out in the house of the rev. Mr. Iveson, whose family with difficulty escaped the fury of the flames, without being able to save a single article; upwards of £300 in notes and cash was destroyed in his house only. Next day several men were employed to dig in the ruins of the buildings, but only a few guineas were recovered.—*Gillespy's Col.*

1790 (May 15).—The master and brethren of the Trinity-house, in Newcastle, resolved to present the freedom of that corporation to his royal highness the duke of Clarence (afterwards king William IV.), which was conveyed to him in an elegant gold box. It was a highly-finished piece of workmanship; on the top were the arms of the Trinity house in enamel, the sides were decorated with beautiful emblematical devices, on the bottom a crown and C., his royal highness's crest, and on the inside of the lid was engraven, "The freedom of the Corporation of the Trinity-house of Newcastle upon Tyne, JONATHAN AIREY, esq., master, presented to his royal highness the duke of Clarence, May 15, 1790."—*Local Papers.*

May.—As some workmen were digging to the stone in a quarry at Billy-mill, near North Shields, above five feet from the surface, they discovered a stone coffin, walled round, and covered with a large flat stone, without any inscription upon it. Within it was a perfect human skeleton, which mouldered to dust immediately on being exposed to the air.—*Ibid.*

June 5.—Died, at Framlington, in Northumberland, Mr. Thomas Blenkinsopp, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

June 22.—There was a violent storm of thunder and lightning in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which continued without intermission for about two hours; the blaze of lightning was, during that period, almost incessant, and the peals of thunder most tremendously awful. During the storm, the electric fluid struck upon the top of a house in the Painter-heugh, Newcastle, and passing down the chimney, shattered a stone at the bottom to pieces, an out-house in the yard was also thrown down, which a maid servant had just quitted. It struck a chimney and shattered the gable end of a house, near St. Ann's chapel, which it left in a very ruinous condition. A gardener, at the Red-heugh, immediately after entering a house for shelter from the rain, was struck by the lightning and killed on the spot, and his body soon after assumed the appearance of putrescency. A thatched house in Chester-le-Street, was set on fire. A cottage, near Barnard-castle, was also burnt down, and several cows and sheep killed in various parts of the country.—*Ibid.*

1790 (Aug. 5).—Thomas Watson was executed on a temporary gallows without the Westgate, Newcastle, for the murder of George Gibson. The circumstances of this murder were marked with singular enormity, and were evidently the result of the most determined premeditation. Watson was a single man, and lived with his father, who had a farm at Elford. Gibson was a married man, and had a farm at Coldrife, near Newham, in Northumberland. Watson and Gibson, were at one time very intimate friends, but the former having heard that Gibson had accused him of unnatural crimes, he determined upon Gibson's destruction, and accordingly he purchased a pistol, balls, and powder, of a gunsmith, in Alnwick, and having infuriated himself with liquor, way-laid Gibson in the night of the 19th of February, 1790, at a place where he expected him to pass, but being disappointed, he the next morning went to Gibson's farm, where he found him, and deliberately shot him through the heart, which caused his death in a few minutes. An attempt was made on the trial to prove his being afflicted with a temporary insanity, but this was not satisfactorily substantiated. At the conclusion of the trial, he betrayed little emotion on hearing his sentence pronounced. At the place of execution, he confessed that he justly suffered, but did not seem very penitent for the commission of the crime. The body was sent to the surgeons' hall for dissection, where the skeleton now remains. During the trial of Watson, one Jane Stephenson, was detected stealing a handkerchief out of a young man's pocket, in the open court; she was immediately secured, and taken before the grand jury, who found a true bill, from thence before his lordship, when she was immediately found guilty, and sentenced to seven year's transportation, all in the course of a few minutes.—*Local Papers*.

August 18.—John Brown, for breaking into a house at Fenham; James Greenwood, for breaking into a shop at North Sunderland; and George Bolton, for horse-stealing, were executed at Morpeth. The execution of three criminals at one time, drew an immense multitude of spectators. Brown was born at Winlaton, in the county of Durham, and left a widow and six children. Greenwood left a widow and three children. Bolton was born at Usworth, in the county of Durham, and had lived as a servant with several people at North Shields.—*Ibid*.

Aug. 23.—There was a violent gale of wind, during which one of the vanes of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, was blown down with the stone which supported it.—*Newc. Chron*.

September 8.—Died, at No. 2, Chapel street, upper Grosvenor place, London; Jane, first wife of the rev. Thomas Scott the celebrated commentator, then chaplain at the Lock hospital. Mrs. Scott,

whose maiden name was Kell, was of a family of reputable circumstances in Hexham, Northumberland, her father had been impoverished by becoming surety for another man's debts; and as she was living housekeeper with Mr. Scott's patron, at Weston-underwood, Bucks. This amiable woman, whom her husband thought to possess whatever can render woman agreeable, beauty excepted, was sister to the late Mrs Errington, of Oakwellgate, Gateshead, and became mother to three clergymen, the reverends John Scott, A. M., late of Hull; Thomas Scott, A. M. late of Gawcott, Bucks; and Benjamin Scott, A. M. late vicar of Bidford, Warwickshire; she was mother in law to the rev. Samuel King; and amongst her grand-children are the rev. John Scott of Hull; rev. Thomas Scott of York; and more than these of the clerical profession. Her death is thus recorded by her husband, "in September 1790, my wife died, while my hands were full of employment, and my heart of most overwhelming cares: so that my distress and anguish, at that period, were beyond whatever will be known or conceived by others, at least in this world." The venerable Thomas Scott died at Aston Sandford, Bucks, April 16th, 1821, one of the best, and most useful of men.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

1790 (Sep. 22).—The bugle-horn, given by his grace the duke of Northumberland, to the bowmen of Chevy Chase, was shot for at Morpeth, and won by Richard Wilson, esq., who also on the same day, won the medal given by the society to the "Captain of Numbers." The other medal was won by Nicholas Ridley, esq. October 4th, at another meeting held at Morpeth, another trial of skill took place, when the gold medal was won by Nicholas Ridley, esq., and the silver medal by Richard Wilson, esq.—*Local Papers.*

October 23.—A woman was placed on a pillory erected for that purpose, in the centre of the Sandhill, Newcastle, for perjury. She was exhibited from twelve o'clock to one o'clock.—*Ibid.*

This month an explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence, seven human beings lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

November.—Several specimens of the Chatterer (*Coracias Garrula*) were taken in Northumberland and Durham.—*Bewick.*

December 29.—In the evening, lord Delaval's elegant theatre, at Seaton Delaval, was opened for the admission of a certain number of ladies and gentlemen, to whom tickets had been sent, and the tragedy of "*The Fair Penitent*," was performed in a manner that would have done credit to a regular theatre. The after-piece, called "*You may like it, or let it alone*," was written for the occasion, and consisted of a number of songs, selected from other pieces, and introduced in an original plot; the performers were lord Delaval, lord Tyrconnell, Mr. Spearman, Mr. Williams, Mr. F. Forster, lady Tyrconnell, Mrs.

Abbs, Miss Daniel, Miss A. Daniel, Miss Ferry, and Master Taylor. An epilogue, written and spoken by the noble lord of the mansion, contained much humour and good point, and an elegantly turned welcome to his visitors.—*Local Papers*.

1790.—Independent chapel, Dundas street, Monkwearmouth shore founded. The register of births and baptisms extends from 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

In 1790, a sentence of excommunication, decreed by the high court of delegates, against A. R. Bowes, esq., for contumacy, and not having paid the expences of the said court, amounting to £552. 8s. 6d., in a cause instituted by Mary Eleanour Bowes, his wife, was read in the parish church of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle.—*Local Papers*.

An act was this year obtained for paving, lighting, and watching, the city of Durham, and for levying certain tolls for those purposes. The act was altered and amended in 1822.—*Surtees*.

This year, a Presbyterian meeting-house, near the east end of South Shields, was rebuilt.—*Local Papers*.

1791 (Jan. 2).—Robert Henderson, of Stockton gentleman, was unfortunately drowned. This person, after the death of his father, Jeremiah Henderson, of Stockton, was well known all along the coast of Yorkshire, Durham, and Northumberland, from Whitby to the Fern Islands, by the name of *the sailing quaker*. He was humane, and in many instances, judiciously charitable, but his generosity was indiscriminate, and carried frequently to an extreme profusion; for which, and for the obstinacy he shewed in neglecting the remonstrances of his friends on account of the risques he ran at sea, he was *disowned by them*. In other respects there are few men whose character will bear so strict a scrutiny as Robert Henderson's. On the above day, in the afternoon, he and one of his men in attempting to make the harbour of Alnmouth (in his sailing boat) were drowned in sight of the whole town. He had sailed from Newbiggin in his coble, contrary to the remonstrances of all the fishermen; nay, the prospect was such, that one of his men would not accompany him, but travelled to Alnmouth by land, just in time to see his master and fellow servant perish.—*Brewster's Stockton*.

March 16.—A little before twelve o'clock at night a fire broke out in the house of Mr. Powell, surgeon, in the Bigg Market, Newcastle, which raged with such fury, that the family, who had all retired to bed, could with difficulty save their lives. The house, and all the valuable furniture, &c. were entirely destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

May 4.—Died, at Great Tosson, near Rothbury, in Northumberland, Mr. Samuel Donkin, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

June.—There were living in Sandgate, Newcastle, a man and his

wife, whose ages together, amounted to 200 years, the husband being 103, and the wife 97.—*Local Papers.*

1791 (June 10).—The hon. Shute Barrington was translated from the see of Salisbury to that of Durham. August 4th, his lordship made a public entry into his diocese when he was met at Croft bridge about noon, by the high sheriff of the county, sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., attended by all his officers, as well as the officers of the see, and a number of gentlemen, to congratulate his lordship on his safe arrival in his diocese. He was also met by John Erasmus Blackett, esq., as substitute for sir Edward Blackett, bart., lord of the manor of Sockburn, who presented his lordship, according to ancient custom, with a falchion. His lordship, with his attendants, then proceeded to Darlington, where they dined. At Farewell-hall, about two miles from the city of Durham, his lordship was met by the chapter, where the rev. Dr. Sharp, as sub-dean, addressed his lordship in an appropriate speech, to which the bishop made a suitable reply. The company then resumed their carriages, and at the head of Old Elvet, were met by the banners of the incorporated companies of the city of Durham, music, &c. At the entrance of the market place, the mayor and aldermen were ready to congratulate his lordship. The procession then moved forward to the cathedral, where his lordship was enthroned. The service was read by the rev. the dean of Rochester, in the course of which, Ebdon's "Magnificat," and "Nunc dimittis," and Purcel's "I was glad," were sung by the choir.—*Ibid.*

July 6.—The foundation-stone of a new theatre was laid in the city of Durham, with great masonic *eclat*, by George Finch, esq., deputy grand master for the county, in the presence of Thomas Chipchase, esq., mayor, and William Ambler, esq., recorder of the city. A plate with a suitable inscription, was deposited within the stone. March 12th, 1792, this theatre was opened, with an occasional prelude, called "*Apollo's Holiday*," written by Mr. Cawdell; the new comedy of "*Wild Oats*;" and the farce of "*The Spoiled Child*."—*Ibid.*

July 6.—An incendiary letter was found on the step of the shop door of Mr. Fife, cabinet maker, in the Postern, Newcastle, threatening the destruction of the Postern meeting-house.—*Ibid.*

July 6 and 7.—Dr. Graham, to shew the nature and safety of earth-bathing, for the use of various diseases, had himself and a young woman, troubled with a scorbutic disorder, placed naked in the earth, and covered up to their lips, in Hanover Square chapel ground, in Newcastle, from twelve o'clock at noon, till six in the evening, each day. Great numbers attended to see this curious exhibition.—*Ibid.*

The Methodist chapel at the foot of Sans-street, Sunderland, was

opened this year by the rev. Dr. Coke. It was considerably enlarged in 1809, and 1824, so that it will now accommodate 2,500 hearers. The register of births and baptisms extend from 1797 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com. &c.*

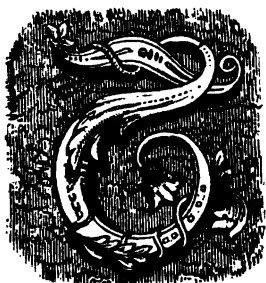
1791.—A theatre was this year erected on the bank top, in the township of Westoe adjacent to South Shields.—*Local Papers.*

August 18.—About twelve o'clock at night, the warehouses of Mr. Alderman Rudman, at the head of the quay, Newcastle, were discovered to be on fire. The flames instantly burst forth with the most impetuous violence, and almost immediately communicated to the adjoining warehouses of Messrs. Nichol and Ludlow, warfingers, which were burnt to the ground; from whence it was communicated to the roof of the Exchange, the west end of which was burnt for a considerable distance, but the application of the fire engines fortunately prevented that important building from sharing a fate, that for some time, appeared inevitable. A warehouse, and part of the office of Messrs. Allan, Robinson, & Co., were also burnt down. From the warehouses of Mr. Rudman nothing could possibly be saved, but the principal part of the goods in Nichol and Ludlow's were got out. The flames, after entirely destroying all that range of buildings from the Tyne Bank, at the bridge end, to the west end of the Exchange, were effectually got under about five o'clock on the following morning. In consequence of the fire getting into the Exchange, the pictures at the west end of the Guildhall, were considerably damaged by it. They were afterwards repaired in a very masterly style by Mr. Bell, painter of Newcastle.—*Ibid.*



HIGH CRANE, NEWCASTLE, 1791.

CHAPTER XV.



THE old city-gateway, called Claypath-gate, which stood near the east end of St. Nicholas' church, in the city of Durham, with some adjoining shops and houses, were removed in 1791, by the commissioners under the paving and lighting act obtained in the preceding year. It was a weak single arch of common stone and rubble. There was a foot-passage on the east side.—*Surtees.*

August 27.—A grand musical festival took place in St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle. The principal vocal performers were Madame Mara, Mrs. Crouch, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Meredith and Mr. Ashley. The two latter gentlemen were the conductors.—*Local Papers.*

September 7.—Died, in the High bridge, Newcastle, Mrs. Ann Young, in her 103rd year.—*Ibid.*

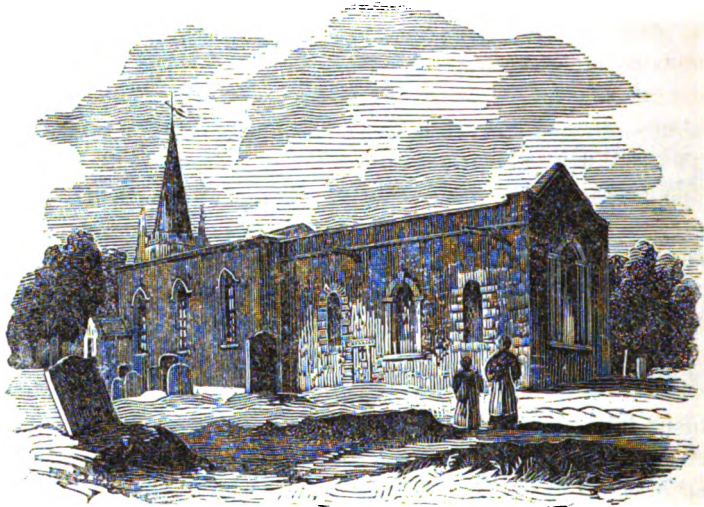
September 21 and 22.—At the Morpeth meeting of Northumberland archers, the silver bugle, given by his grace the duke of Northumberland, patron and perpetual president of the society, was won by John Widderington, esq.; the gold medal for the "Captain of the target," by William Ogle, esq.; and the silver medal for the "Captain of numbers," by John Bell, esq.—*Ibid.*

September 25.—A young shark was brought into Sunderland by some fishermen. It was taken in a herring net in Whitburn bay; it measured about five feet in length.—*Ibid.*

This month, as some labourers were levelling the hill at the lower end of South Shields, near the Law-house, they discovered a round flat stone of about two feet and a half in diameter, which bore the marks of fire on the upper side, and which was supported by rude pillars of about ten inches in height; a quantity of earth, resembling

red ashes was found under the stone, and on a level with the bottom of the pillars, was a circular pavement of flat freestones, extending about two feet from the verge of the said stone. They also found cannon-balls of various sizes, and foundations of walls here and there, and part of a house with fire place complete.—*Local Rec.*

1791 (Oct. 22).—From a great quantity of rain having fallen, much damage was done by the overflowing of the rivers and brooks, in Northumberland. A great part of Wooler-bridge was carried away.—*Ibid.*



LONG BENTON CHURCH.

November 2.—The present church at Long Benton, in Northumberland, was consecrated by the right rev. Dr. John Hinchcliffe, bishop of Peterborough. The chancel was left in its original state in consequence of the disinclination of the lessees of the great tithes to undertake the expence of rebuilding it. The floor of the new church being on a higher level there was a descent from it by three steps into the chancel until 1838, when the floor was raised uniform with the rest of the building at the expence of the master and scholars of Balliol college. The church stands in the valley about two furlongs north of the village; this inconvenient site is traditionally said to have been chosen to accommodate the inhabitants of Killingworth,*

* There is a legend that the church was actually commenced at Benton, but that the masonry of each day was removed at night. Without acquiescing in the idea of supernatural interference, we may perhaps suspect that this nocturnal dilapidation, if it really occurred, was the work of the Killingworth people, who wished it to be built nearer them. Holy Stone on the eastern boundary of this parish is supposed to have been an appendage

or perhaps because it was impossible to obtain a burying ground in the village, in consequence of the rock approaching so near the surface. The secluded situation of the church has led to its being frequently broken into. We find an entry in the church books in 1806, "To advertising the church being robbed, 6s." and again in 1818, "Advertisements when the church was broken into, £1 6s." In 1830, a corpse which had been disinterred by resurrection men, who probably were alarmed in their work, was found in the water-course a little above the bridge near the church-yard. Soon after which, in 1831, a residence for the sexton was built at the end of the stable * with an adjoining room for the use of the parishioners. On the 14th of October 1835, in sinking a grave at a spot about 16 yards south of the old chancel door, the spade came in contact with a hard substance; which, on further examination, proved to be a stone coffin. No vestiges of bones were found, nor any cover. It had therefore probably been opened before. It has been observed that stone coffins were rarely buried deep, and this lay not more than two feet below the surface of the soil. The workmanship is somewhat rude; there is a round cavity for the head at one end. The extreme length without is 6 feet 5 inches, and within 5 feet 7 inches. The material, a close grained free-stone. It now lies against the south wall of the chancel. In the taxation of Pope Nicholas, this benefice is returned as a rectory. But about the year 1340, sir Philip Somervyll, of Wykenore, county of Stafford, knight, granted the church of Mikelbenton or Long Benton, with lands in the parish, to Balliol college, and a severance of the great tithes from the church was effected by an ordination of Richard Bury, bishop of Durham. It is dated "*Capella nostra de Houeden*" 25th of June 1342; John de Somervyll "*de Burton Annays*," † surrendering the rectory, which thenceforth was appropriated to the uses of the master and scholars of Balliol "*Hall*," "*Aule de Balliolo*." A payment of twenty shillings annually was reserved to the bishop and his successors with another similar payment of ten shillings to the prior and chapter of Durham, and one of thirty marks to be paid at York to the said "John Somervyll." The act of appropriation is among the papers of the dean and chapter at Durham, Cartuary 2, page 69, and another is given by Hodgson, part 3, vol. ii, page 107.

to the priory of Tynemouth, or of Jesmond, between which it is about equidistant. Tradition speaks of a chapel as formerly existing on the Roman wall at Walker and of another at Weetslett.

* This stable was erected in 1759 by subscription. The sum raised was £94. 11s., of which the corporation of Newcastle contributed £20. Brand, vol. ii. p. 538, Note q. The farmers led the materials.

† Qu. Burton Agnes, East Riding, county of York.

The vicarage-house was very materially improved during the incumbency of John Darch, B. D., about 1757, by whom the present entrance-hall and drawing-room were built. All the older buildings were pulled down by the present incumbent, who erected the back rooms in 1831, and further enlarged the house and transposed the kitchen and offices to the east end in 1837. In the chancel are several ancient grave stones: one inscribed "Carolo Hayton, A. M., hujusce ecclesie vicario viro benevolo probo pio erudito qui obiit 10 Sep. 1743, Æt. 32." We may notice the following entries in the church accounts: "Easter Monday, April 12, 1773. Memorandum, at a vestry meeting held this day, it is agreed that the parish clerk have 4d. per plough throughout the whole parish, and every grass farm pay also † 4 pence in lieu of ploughs." In the same year is the following entry, "To two martens heads, 8d." and in 1795, the same charge occurs. Three in 1811. One marten head in 1812, 4d. In 1717, "for ringing the bell on the 5th of November, 1s. 6½d." July 8th 1744. "Then agreed at a vestry meeting, that Mr. Nelson, curate of y^e parish, keep the parish accts. and have twelve shillings yearly for so doing." In 1748, 30th September, a faculty was granted by Richard Chandler, M. A., vicar general to the bishop, to William Bigge and John Williams esquires, for the erection of a gallery at the west end of the church. On July 18, 1764, and again on 5th October, 1768, the church was personally visited by the venerable John Sharp, archdeacon of Northumberland, and April 20th 1826, by archdeacon Singleton. In 1814, is an entry to "Mr. Giles, for building the vestry per agreement, £86." A school room with residence for the master above was built by the parishioners on the waste at the east end of the village of Benton, for which they pay a ground rent of 1s. per annum to the lords of the manor. The rent is first entered as paid in 1814. The parish account book commences April 6, 1713. —*Benton Par. Books, &c.*

1792 (Jan. 26).—Rowland Burdon, esq., having conceived the idea of throwing *an arch* of *cast-iron* over the river Wear at Sunderland, a public meeting was held in that town for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning parliament for leave to carry the project into effect, and after some opposition, an act was obtained in the same year.—*Surtees.*

Early this year the outrageous cruelties committed by the riotous seamen of the port of Tyne, at Shields, exceeded every thing of the kind experienced on any similar occasion, and were of such a nature as would disgrace any set of men.—*Gillespy's Col.*

* Sic in MS.



1792 (Feb. 8).—A petition to parliament was agreed on by the inhabitants of Newcastle and Gateshead, for the abolition of the slave trade. The whole kingdom appeared at this time to be interested in the degraded state of the poor blacks. Newcastle, in particular, has ever been foremost in craving parliament to exert its powers, and do away with that traffic in human flesh.—*Local Papers.*

February 11.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Ann Clarke, in her 101st year.—*Ibid.*

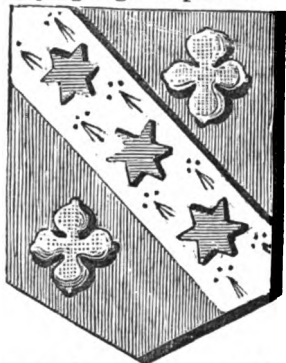
February 26.—A most melancholy accident happened at the mouth of the river Tyne:—a coble having five pilots belonging to South Shields on board, was unluckily overset by a very heavy sea, and every soul hurried into eternity.—*Ibid.*

April 20.—As the wife of James Anderson, of Shillbottle coal-houses, was in the byer with a lighted candle attending a cow near her calving, she unfortunately (as was supposed) fell asleep, when the candle set fire to some straw that was near, which fired the roof and burnt the byer, and consumed the poor woman, big with child, to ashes, with two cows, two horses, some stacks of corn and hay, and all the hinds' houses, byers, and stables of the place. The flames burnt with such fury, that it was with great difficulty one of the hinds saved his family from its violence, every thing he had was destroyed, except a blanket, in which he carried his little children from the threatening destruction.—*Ibid.*

This month, the pulling down and rebuilding North Shields church commenced.—*Ibid.*

The herbage of the Lady Chapel Banks, near Morpeth, was this month by some means set on fire, and continued to spread for some days; it communicated to an adjoining wood belonging to the duke

of Portland, and many valuable trees were destroyed. From the dry weather, and the high winds, apprehensions were formed of its destroying a great part of the beautiful wood adjoining.—*Univ. Mag.*



1792 (June 9).—Saturday, died at Little Harle Tower, in the 83rd year of his age, Gawen Aynsley, esq., fifty years chairman of the sessions for the county of Northumberland; and the oldest magistrate in it; the duties of which office he fulfilled with strict justice, by an unremitting attention to the public welfare, and in that department rendered the most effectual services to his country. In the more retired and private walks of life he was greatly beloved, revered, and respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. His time was spent in promoting the real and only end of true religion and virtue by good example. His whole life was one continued scene of acts of munificence and benevolence. His remains were interred, by his own desire, in a private manner, in the family-vault in the chancel of Kirkwhelpington church.—*Gent's Mag.*

June 29.—A great county meeting was held at Morpeth, on the following occasion. The king (Geo. III.) had issued a proclamation against seditious writings, and improper meetings: and a requisition signed by many of the nobility, clergy and gentry, had been sent to the sheriff, Ra. Wm. Grey, esq., desiring him to call a county meeting, for the purpose of addressing his majesty on his late royal proclamation. The above day was accordingly fixed; and at the hour appointed, so great an assemblage of gentlemen and people of all classes had formed about the town-hall, Morpeth, the gates being kept shut, and guarded by bailiffs and constables, that when the sheriff arrived he found it difficult to gain admittance, and gave up the attempt, though an avenue was ultimately opened. After some deliberation, it was determined that an address should be formed and signed by those gentlemen who were so inclined. It was therefore left at the Queen's Head for signature. Mr. Charles Grey, the present earl, then M.P. for Northumberland, finding that an address from a *county* meeting had been abandoned, determined to address the numerous assemblage in the open street. He had after the most mature reflexion, become convinced that a reform in the representation was necessary; and he therefore thought it his duty to his constituents, and to the nation, to exert his endeavours to effect it. He condemned an address from *Gateshead*, which contained expressions contrary to the declared rights of the

citizens of England. Purporting that, "discussion of any question respecting the government or the constitution was improper to be agitated anywhere but in *St. Stephen's chapel*." He equally reprobated an address from *Newcastle*, which expressed "earnest hopes that Parliament will use its utmost endeavours to suppress and defeat all motions which may be brought forward to effect any change in the representation of the people." But no man, nor any body of men, should ever deter him from the exertion of those endeavours to serve his country, which the deputation of his constituents had rendered his duty. The question was first agitated in 1733, when the germ of the reform bill was originated; but in peace or in war, in prosperous or in adverse circumstances, though the necessity had been admitted, yet it had been alleged that the *time* was improper for carrying the measure into execution. After his speech, delivered amidst the vociferous acclamations of the people, a number of them drew Mr. Grey in his carriage out of the town, on his return to Howick. He had spoken for an hour and twenty minutes, in the open street. Of this speech Mr. *Soloman Hodgson* carried away a column and a half in his memory, which he transferred to his paper the week following,—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

1792 (July 8).—Died, in the parish of Stamfordham, Isabella Dickenson, aged 102 years.—*Local Papers.*

July 16.—There was a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain. In the neighbourhood of Bellingham, the rain fell very copiously for about two hours, when it apparently ceased; but in about an hour afterwards, the atmosphere, in various directions, became almost a continued stream of electric fire, and the thunder which followed, awful beyond description. On the hills near Otterburn, the tempest increased to a hurricane, and the clouds discharged water in volumes resembling water-spouts. Small rivulets, which run from these hills, were swelled into deep and rapid streams, and before half-past eleven at night the river Rede rose near thirteen feet perpendicular, being one foot higher than it was in November, 1771. Many hundred acres of meadow and corn land were covered with water. Large quantities of bushes and trees were torn up by the roots. The river at Newcastle was much flooded, and much damage was done to the crops in that neighbourhood. A cow was killed upon Morpeth common, as was also a valuable horse near Stannington. Many of the streets in Newcastle were overflowed, and some damage done in the cellars and low shops, in various parts of the town. This flood carried away two of the arches of a bridge upon the turnpike road leading from Hexham to Carlisle.—*Ibid.*

July 17.—A very singular and destructive *ice storm* occurred at

Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, and its neighbourhood. It happened between the hours of eleven and one in the day, and was preceded by an almost total darkness, and a noise resembling reverberated thunder. The streets in the town were filled to the depth of two feet with pieces of rugged ice, varying in size from that of a marble to the bigness of a man's head. All the windows which had a southern aspect were entirely broken, and many houses presented a dreadful picture of its violence and devastation. It began near Preston, and continued to rage in a south-east direction to beyond Kelloe. All the corn exposed to its fury was destroyed. The trees were stripped of their leaves, numerous birds were killed, and the cattle broke from their pastures, and, with visible expressions of terror, fled to the habitations of man for security.—*Local Papers*.

1792 (July 28).—Hailstones, or rather pieces of ice, some of them weighing 10 ounces and filling a beer-glass when dissolved, were said to have fallen this day at Newcastle. A few days before, at Trimdon, Durham, hailstones 4 inches by 3 in circumference, fell during a thunderstorm, and destroyed a large field of wheat, broke 200 panes of glass in one house, killed poultry, and knocked down pigeons on y^e wing.—*Chron. Mir. from Belford Par. Reg.*

This month, died at South Shields, Barbara Dunn, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers*.

August 7.—A rumour having prevailed amongst the lower class of the inhabitants of Berwick, that three young surgeons of that place had made a practice of procuring the bodies of persons recently interred in the church-yard there, for the purpose of dissecting them, an alarming mob, assembling on the above day, proceeded to the utmost violence, and totally demolished a building belonging to Mr. Nesbit, where they found several dead bodies; they also attempted to effect the like purpose upon another house belonging to a person whom they suspected to be concerned in the robbery of the sacred sepulchres of their friends. The violent disposition of the populace called forth the utmost exertions of the magistracy; the riot act was read without effect, and to their aid, they were under the necessity of calling forth the troops in garrison before the tumultuous mob could be induced to disperse. A reward of ten guineas was offered for the apprehension of Mr. Nesbit who had absconded.—*Univ. Mag.*

August 8.—As some workmen were pulling down an old house near the market place, in Stockton, belonging to Mr. James Crowe, they discovered a bag, which had been concealed in an inner wall near the fire-place, which, on examination, was found to contain a considerable number of pieces of silver coin, supposed to have lain there above a century. Some of the coins were much worn, yet many

others were in fine preservation. Among a great variety there were some fine pieces of Edward VI., Queen Mary and Elizabeth, also several half crowns, &c., of Charles I., representing on one side the king on horseback, with arms and weapons, the Welsh feathers behind him, and with his usual style: on the reverse this motto:—*EXVRGAT DEUS DISSIPENTVR INIMICI*, in a circle near the edge; and *RELIG. PROT. LEG. ANG. LIBER PAR.*, in two lines across the middle of the area, alluding to what his majesty had declared at the breaking out of the war:—That his intention was to preserve the Protestant religion, laws, and liberties of his subjects, and the privileges of parliament. These were supposed to have been coined at Oxford in 1642, 1643, and 1644. The bishop of Durham, as lord of the manor, recovered 840 pieces, weighing 9lbs. 4oz.—*Hist. of Stockton.*

1792 (Aug. 10).—William Winter, Jane Clark, and Eleanor Clark, were executed at the Westgate, Newcastle, pursuant to their sentences, for the murder of Margaret Crozier, at the *Raw*, in the parish of Elsdon, Northumberland. This Margaret Crozier was a respectable old woman, who kept a small shop. In this year, William Winter, a man of powerful frame, but of desperate character, whose father and brother were hanged at Morpeth, in 1788 returned from transportation, for horse stealing, and leagued himself with the above two cruel and profligate women Jane and Eleanor Clark, who belonged to a gang of *faux*, whose general place of rendezvous was



THE PEEL HOUSE AS IT APPEARED IN 1791.

at Hedley Fell, near Ryton in the county of Durham. Winter, for eighteen years, had never been six months together, either out of prison, or from under the sentence of the law; and he had now been only a few days at liberty, before he began, with his new associates, to enter into plans of deeper villainy than he had hitherto ventured upon. The two Clarks, in their wanderings, had experienced the kindness of Margaret Crozier, and supposing her to be rich, proposed to Winter that their first joint adventure should be to go and rob her. They took two asses with them to carry their plunder; and in their way passed through the towns of Stamfordham and Whelpington, and dined and rested in a sheep-fold on Whiskersields Common, which overlooks the Raw, and in which a shepherd's boy was on his duty and remained as long as they were there. Early the next morning, poor Crozier was found cruelly murdered, and her house robbed. Hue and cry was immediately raised. The country rose on all sides, and in the old phrase, followed the murderers hot-trod by the same track on which they had gone the day before. They were overtaken while resting in a woody dingle, called Whittle-dean, near Ovingham, and apprehend there without resistance. Their trial lasted sixteen hours. All of them were condemned, and hanged at the Westgate; and Winter's body was hung in chains at Sting cross, in sight of Margaret Croziers house. The boy who was in the sheep-fold, while they were eating, identified Winter's shoe at his trial, by the number, and remarkable kind of nails in its heel; and swore that the bloody *gully*, or butcher's knife, which was found upon them when they were taken, was that with which they cut their meat, when they were in the sheep-fold.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

1792 (Aug. 12).—The bowmen of Chevy Chase shot at a target on the town-moor, Newcastle. The prize was a most elegant silver quiver, given by Lady Ridley (lady patroness), in honour of the Prince of Wales' birth-day, to be annually shot for on the 12th of August. The most central shot to win. The members present were sir. M. W. Ridley, bart., Nicholas Ridley, Joseph Forster, John Dickson, Miles Monkhouse, John Wilson, Lancelot Heron, and John Bell, esqrs. The prize was won by John Wilson, esq., whose arrow was in the centre of the gold. Sir M. W. Ridley had his *marquee* pitched on the shooting ground, with refreshments for the company; and afterwards gave an elegant entertainment at the mansion-house to the members. The practice of this ancient English exercise was much in fashion at this time, a society having been formed under the patronage of his grace the duke of Northumberland, denominated "*The Northumberland Archers.*"—*Local Papers.*

August 22.—Sylvanus Broadwater and Joseph Marshall, found

guilty of stealing two horses, in the neighbourhood of Brampton, and Christopher Taylor, for setting fire to a malting at Bardon mill, near Haltwhistle, and stealing a box containing £20, in gold, also found guilty, were severally executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences. Broadwater and Marshall persisted in their innocence as to any intention of stealing the horses saying they only took them to ride part of the road. Taylor also said, he was innocent of the crime for which he was about to suffer.—*Local Papers.*

1792 (August 24).—In the night and the following morning, there was an extraordinary fall of rain in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, accompanied with thunder and lightning. The water ran down the streets in torrents, and did great damage, in the lower parts of that town and Gateshead; at the Stock-bridge, the current, which was more than the arch could contain, swept down the battlement, and flowed into many of the houses there, in Pandon, and Blyth's Nook. At the foot of the Bottle-bank, and Pipewellgate, Gateshead, the water flowed into the houses and shops; many people attended to carry others on their backs through the current; one woman carrying another across the street, near where the Tollbooth stood, and the stream proving too strong for her, she stumbled with her burden, and both were rolled down for a considerable distance. A great flood of water came down the rivers Tyne, Team, and Derwent, which overflowed all the haughs and low grounds, whereby great quantities of hay, standing in pikes, were swept away, and the growing corn mostly destroyed. Wood, cattle, and various articles were also brought down by the flood, and numerous bridges over rivulets were either swept away, or greatly damaged. As Mr. George Walton, farmer, was returning home from Tanfield, in crossing a rivulet not far from his own house, he and his horse were carried down by the violence of the current, the horse got to land, but unfortunately Mr. Walton was drowned; the body floated down the river Derwent, and was taken up near Swalwell the following morning. There was also much damage done in the river Wear.—*Gillespy's Col.*

September 8.—Died, Henry, earl of Darlington. He was representative for the county of Durham in the Parliament of 1753.—*Sharp's Knts. of Dur.*

October 27.—A stack of hay, containing about 70 tons, standing near Heaton colliery, which had not been sufficiently dry when put up, took fire, and was totally consumed.—*Local Papers.*

This month, died at South Shields, Ann Mackie, aged 100 years.—*Ibid.*

November 24.—Being the anniversary of the birth day of Miss Ann Riddell, of Felton Park, the morning was ushered in by the ringing

of bells ; ale and other liquors were distributed to the populace, and the evening concluded with a dance at Felton Park. On the 27th, sir Walter Blount, of Morley, in Shropshire, gave an ox to the inhabitants of Felton and its environs, which was roasted whole. Two men-cooks, in proper uniform, cut up the ox and distributed it in equal proportions to the people, the bakers of the village did the same with bread, and the publicans with their ale. The whole was conducted with the greatest decorum, with music and firing of cannon. The favourite tune was, "*There's few good fellows when Watty's awa'.*" The village exhibited a scene of laudable hospitality and harmless festivity. On the following morning sir Walter Blount and Miss Ann Riddell were united in wedlock, and immediately after the ceremony, took their departure for the baronet's seat in Shropshire, amidst the blessings of the poor and the acclamations of the populace, who unharnessed the horses and drew the carriage from Felton Park quite through the village. He gave ten pounds to the poor of the parish, and three guineas to the people who drew the carriage ; at the same time, sir Walter ordered two fat sheep to be roasted and distributed, which was accordingly done that day.—*Local Papers.*

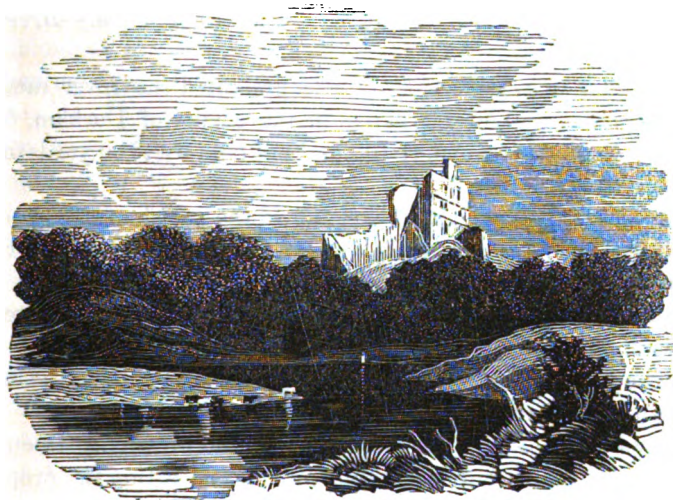
1792 (Dec. 24).—Died, in the High bridge, Newcastle, Mr. William Whitehead, musical instrument maker and turner. In 1775, Mr. Whitehead invented a swell for the piano forte, which was much approved of by the musical people in Newcastle. He also, in conjunction with Mr. Jameson, engraver, published "*An Explanation of the Incorporated Companies of Newcastle 1776.*" Mr. W. also published "*The Historian's Pocket Companion, 1777,*" And a "*Newcastle Directory,*" which last was continued for several years. The whole of these are now very scarce. Mr. W. was a very ingenious and eccentric man. He left two maiden sisters (both since dead) who were also of some celebrity for a peculiar method of dying and cleaning silk, &c., &c.—*Local Rec.*

December 31.—About two o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in one of the lodging-rooms in the rectory-house at Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, which consumed the greater part of the building before it was extinguished ; by the activity of the servants and the neighbourhood, the most valuable part of the furniture was preserved. The superstitious inhabitants of Sedgefield, were, previously to the burning down of the rectory-house, alarmed by an apparition, denominated the *Pickled Parson*, which for many years was presumed to infest the neighbourhood of the rector's hall, "making night hideous." The supposed origin of the tale is attributed to the cunning of a rector's wife, whose husband having died about a week before the tithes (which are generally let off to farmers and the rents paid on the 20th

of December) became due, she concealed his death by salting his body in a private room. Her scheme succeeded; she received the emoluments of the living, and the next day made the decease of the rector public. Since the fire, the apparition has not been seen.—*Surtees, &c.*

1792 (Dec.)—This month, Thomas Paine, author of the "*Rights of Man*," &c. &c., was burnt in effigy at most of the towns and considerable villages in Northumberland and Durham.—*Local Papers.*

The present colliery at Hebburn, in the county of Durham, commenced this year.—*Ibid.*

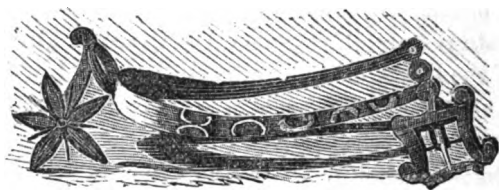


NORHAM CASTLE.

This year, in clearing out the ditch of the keep of Norham castle, wherein was procured much excellent manure, a large two-handed broad sword was found an iron spur with a brass rowel an inch and a half in diameter, a steel arrow point, several plaited straps of leather, each an inch and a half in breadth, which appeared to be the remains of a buckler to resist the force of weapons, and the remains of a shoe, very sharp at the toe, and narrow at the instep. A very deep well was discovered in an apartment adjoining the dungeon tower.—*Mackenzie.*

1792.—The whole structure of Greatham church, in the county of Durham, being ruinous, was taken down and entirely rebuilt, and a bell-tower added at the west end, with an entrance beneath. The only parts of the old structure which are retained, are the pillars and arches on each side of the nave, forming regular aisles.—*Surtees.*

About this year, in digging the ground for the foundation of an



house at Stockton, between the situation of the castle and the river, was found a piece of stained glass and an ornamented spur. The latter resembles the spur of Charles I., as represented in Vandyke's painting, and probably belonged to one of his garrison. It is now in the possession of the rev. Mr. Brewster of Egglecliffe.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

1792.—This year, the society of arts presented the silver medal to George Pearson, esq., of Harperly, in the county of Durham, for an account of the improvement of 100 acres of land by 7700 yards of hollow drain.—*Local Papers.*

The charity school for girls belonging to the parish of St. Andrew, in Newcastle, was this year instituted, and the school-house in Percy street built by voluntary contributions.—*Ibid.*

This year, the boundaries of the parish of St. Nicholas, Newcastle were perambulated, by the rev. J. S. Lushington, vicar. The expences amounted to £5 5s. 3d. This is the last time the boundaries of the parish were perambulated.—*J. Bell's Col.*

1793 (Jan. 24).—At a meeting held at the Assembly Rooms, in Newcastle, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of establishing a Literary and Philosophical Society in that town a committee was appointed, and it was resolved, that the first general meeting should be held at the Dispensary, on Thursday, February the 7th. After its formation, its meetings were held in a room in St. Nicholas' church-yard, and its library was commenced in 1795, and three years after the whole of its property was removed to the old Assembly Rooms, in the Groat Market, where it remained until 1825, when the new building in Westgate-street was finished.—*Local Rec.*

February 14.—Died, Brass Crosby, esq., the patriotic alderman of London. Mr. Crosby was born at Stockton, May 8th, 1725, and was the son of Mr. Hercules Crosby of that place, and of Mary, one of the daughters and heiresses of John Brass, of Blackhalls, esq. He was placed with Ben. Hoskins, esq., a solicitor of great eminence at Sunderland, and removing to London, he pursued his profession with great industry and integrity. In 1764 he served the office of sheriff; in 1765 was elected alderman of Bread-street ward; and in 1770 he attained the highest honour of the city, in which



capacity, having pursued the same independent spirit of his predecessors, Beckford and Trecothick, he was committed to the Tower by the house of commons (of which he was a member) for liberating a printer of the debates in parliament, who had been arrested by a messenger of the House, in the city of London, without the authority of a city magistrate. This event involved the question of publishing the debates in both houses, which, previous to this time, had been inserted in the public prints, under the titles of the debates

in Lilliput, of the Robin Hood Society, &c., and the speakers were designated under Roman or fictitious names. On the termination of the session of parliament, he left the Tower accompanied by alderman Oliver (committed under similar circumstances) under a discharge of 21 guns belonging to the artillery company, and was escorted to the Mansion-house with fifty-three carriages. At night the city was illuminated. On the conclusion of his mayoralty, he received the thanks of the corporation and a silver cup of £200 value, which still remains in the possession of his family. The obelisk in St. George's Fields was inscribed to his memory. He received addresses from several counties and towns, &c., in England, and the corporation of the Trinity-house, and 24 of the incorporated companies of Newcastle sent addresses of thanks to him and Oliver whilst they were confined in the Tower, complimenting them for the determined stand they had made in defence of the liberties of the people. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Crosby in Surtees' History of Durham, from which work this notice is extracted.

1793 (Feb. 17).—Sunday, in consequence of serious disturbances amongst the keelmen at Sunderland, a party of the Inniskilling regiment of dragoons marched into that town, and on Thursday morning seven of the rioters were committed to Durham gaol, and there safely lodged, under the escort of Mr. Milbanke, and Mr. Ettrick, two justices of the peace, attended by a troop of horse. On their road through Bishopwearmouth, they were assailed with a shower of brickbats, &c., by a mob, assembled in a riotous manner, in the Panfield. The dragoons were then ordered to clear the streets, which they luckily effected without injury to the inhabitants.—*Chatto's Col.*

February.—The seamen at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Shields, and along the eastern coast, entered into resolutions to resist any attempt to press them, and invited all the sailors in the kingdom to join them. On Tuesday the 19th, they dismissed the press-gang from North

Shields, with the highest contempt with their jackets reversed. They were conducted by a numerous mob to Chirton Bar, and who, on parting, gave them three cheers, but vowing that should they ever attempt to enter Shields, they should be torn limb from limb.—*Chatto's Col.*

1793 (Feb. 22).—The dragoons marched from Newcastle, headed by some of the magistrates for the county of Durham, for the purpose of suppressing the tumults existing among the colliers upon the Wear, which they happily effected without any disturbance, and the colliers, in consequence, quietly returned to their avocations.—*Ibid.*

March 18.—The sailors at Shields, to the amount of 500, assembled in a riotous manner, armed with swords, pistols, and other weapons, and made an attempt to sieze the Eleanor, tender, in order to rescue the impressed men on board, which was rendered abortive by the exertions of the officers of the impress service. The seamen next day attempted to come to Newcastle, but hearing that a strong civil and military force (the North York militia and the dragoons being under arms) were ready to receive them, they dispersed after having treated George Foster, one of the press-gang, with the utmost cruelty at Howdon Pans. Their pretext was, that the men were ill-treated on board the tender. On the information arriving in Newcastle that the sailors were on their way to that town, the drums of the North York militia beat to arms, the alarm became general, and the streets were filled with people in a state of the greatest ferment. A body of the militia, commanded by the earl of Fauconberg, marched from the guard-house adjoining to Newgate, to the house of rendezvous for impressed seamen in the Broad Chare; the alarm, however, appeared to be totally unfounded.—*Local Papers.*

March 27.—While a two horse cart, laden with household furniture, was standing at the door of a house in Westgate-street, Newcastle, the horses took fright, and dragged their charge with great violence to the entrance of Bailiff-gate, where some of the trappings breaking, the horses parted, the one running forwards towards Hanover-square, and the other with the cart continuing its course with unabated velocity along Bailiff-gate, and down the Long-stairs, till stopped in its further progress by the narrowness of the stairs near the bottom. No lives were lost, nor did the horse or goods sustain any material injury. A private in the North York militia endeavouring to prevent the horses running, was thrown down, trampled on, and severely bruised.—*Ibid.*

April 7.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Mary Hogg, aged 102 years. She retained all her faculties to the last.—*Ibid.*

April 26.—Most extraordinary preparations for impressing were made by the crews of the armed vessels lying in Shields harbour.

That night the regiment at Tynemouth barracks was drawn up and formed into a *cordon* round North Shields to prevent any person from escaping; when sailors, mechanics, labourers, and men of every description, to the amount of two hundred and fifty, were forced on board the armed ships by the different press-gangs.—*Local Papers*.

1793 (June 10).—A fire broke out in the bake-houses of Mr. John Graham, in Berwick, which raged so violently, that in a short time the whole were reduced to ashes, together with the stock in trade contained in the same.—*Ibid*.

This month, a house, the property of Anthony Leaton, esq., at Hoppyland, in the county of Durham, was maliciously set on fire and burnt down. A fine oak tree was also bored into and blasted into shivers with gunpowder.—*Ibid*.

July 23.—A fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. William Corner, joiner, in the New-street (Church street), Gateshead, which, in a few hours, entirely consumed the same, and did considerable damage to an adjoining house.—*Ibid*.

July.—Owing to the extraordinary heat of the weather, several sheep and lambs dropped down and died on the road from Morpeth market to Newcastle.—*Chatto's Col*.

August 10.—A friendly society was commenced, at Castle-Eden, in the county of Durham, for bettering the condition of the poor. This was the first institution of the kind in England.—*J. Bell's Col*.

August 12.—The silver quiver was shot for on the town-moor, Newcastle, by the bowmen of Chevy Chase, and won by Nicholas Ridley, esq., who was also "Captain of numbers."—*Local Papers*.

August 14.—Walter Clark and Margaret Dunn were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences, for burglaries. Clark behaved in confinement, and at the gallows, with great penitence. Margaret Dunn, who had been found guilty of stealing cash and wearing apparel from a house in Corbridge, asserted that she fell a victim to the crime of another woman. Clark was the father of the two unfortunate girls who were hanged the preceding year with Winter.—*Ibid*.

Same day, a fire broke out at Red Barn, in Rookhope, in the county of Durham, which consumed six cottages.—*Ibid*.

August 20.—Died in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Margaret Pearson, aged 104 years.—*Ibid*.

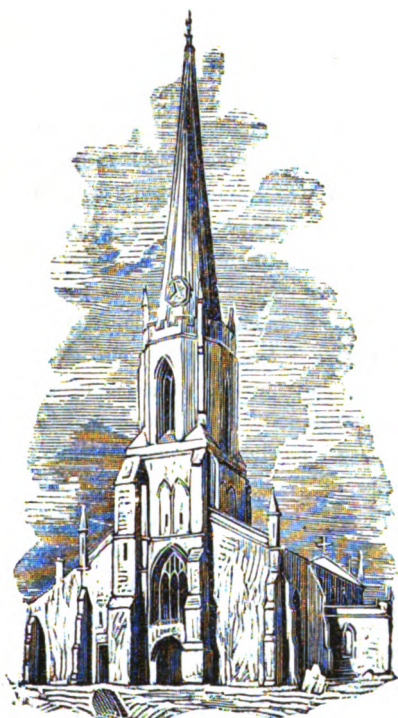
August 22.—The Northumberland archers held their adjourned meeting at Morpeth, when the gold medal for "Captain of the target" was won by Lancelot Heron, of Morpeth, and the silver medal for "Captain of numbers," by Mr. Bell, of Gallow-hill house.—*Ibid*.

August 23.—Died, at Norton near Stockton, in his 79th year, the rev. John Wallis, M.A., formerly of Queen's college, Oxford. This

venerable man, though possessed of good natural ability, and no small share of acquired knowledge, lived and died in an obscure station. His situation in life, perhaps, should not be much lamented, as his disposition was so mild, and his sense of duty so proper, that he acquiesced without a murmur or a sigh in his humble fortune. At an early period of life he married a lady near Portsmouth, where he at that time resided on a curacy. For 56 years they enjoyed all the happiness of their matrimonial connexion, an happiness so visible that it became almost proverbial in their neighbourhood, Mr. Wallis was a native of Northumberland; * and, after spending a few years in the south of England, he became curate of Symonburn, on North Tyne. Here he began to cultivate with effect his botanic genius, and filled his little garden with curious plants. The study of botany brought with it a fondness for natural history in general. This was succeeded by his writing the '*History of Northumberland*,' which was published in two vols., 4to., 1769; the first of which, containing an account of plants, minerals, fossils, &c., indigenous to the country, is reckoned the most valuable. His fortune, however, did not improve with his fame, and a dispute with his rector occasioned him to leave his happy retreat. But, alas! he had no other to fly to; and he and his wife were received into the family of a humane and benevolent clergyman, who had formerly been his friend at college. Soon after this he became curate *pro tempore* at Haughton, near Darlington, in 1775, and immediately after, removed to the curacy of Billingham, near Stockton, where he continued till increasing infirmities obliged him to resign at Midsummer 1793. He then removed to the neighbouring village of Norton, where, in a short time, with all the consciousness of a well spent life, without a pain, he expired. About two years before his death, a very small estate fell to him, by the death of a brother; and it should be related, to the honour of bishop Barrington, that when the circumstances and situation of Mr. Wallis were represented to him, he agreed to allow him an annual pension after he had resigned his curacy.

* The editors of the *History of Cumberland*, published under the name of William Hutchinson, F. A. S., author of the *History of Durham*, have assigned to the neighbourhood of Ireby, in Cumberland, the honour of having within it the birth-place of the author, who first published a distinct work on the *History of Northumberland*. Mr. Wallis, however, in his preface to that work, gives a different account of the place of his nativity. "Northumberland," says he, "being Roman ground, and receiving my first breath in Alione, or Whitley Castle, one of their castra, I was led by a sort of enthusiasm, to an enquiry and search after their towns, their cities and temples, their baths, their altars, their tumuli, their military ways, and other remains of splendour and magnificence, which will admit of a thousand views and reviews, and still give pleasure to such as have a gust for any thing Roman."

This unexpected offer made such an impression of gratitude upon Mr. W., that almost the last act of his life was to pack up an antient statue of Apollo, found at Carvoran, a Roman station, near Glenwelt, in the parish of Haltwhistle, which he intended as a present to the hon. Daines Barrington, brother to the late bishop. In the early part of his life, he published a volume of Letters to a Pupil on entering into Holy Orders; and he left behind him a small, but valuable collection of books, chiefly on subjects of Natural History.—*Gent's Mag. &c.*



CHURCH AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

1793 (Sep.)—The spire of the church at Chester-le-street was at this time being rebuilt. It rises from the ground 156 feet, and is seen at a great distance.—*Surtees.*

September 5,—Died at Staindrop, in the county of Durham, in the 85th year of his age, the rev. Peter Fisher, who had been vicar of that parish for upwards of fifty-six years. He was rector of Cockfield, in the same county, and of Woodham-Walter in Essex; a man no less venerable for his virtues than his years; who without any extraordinary brilliancy of intellect, had plain good natural parts, which

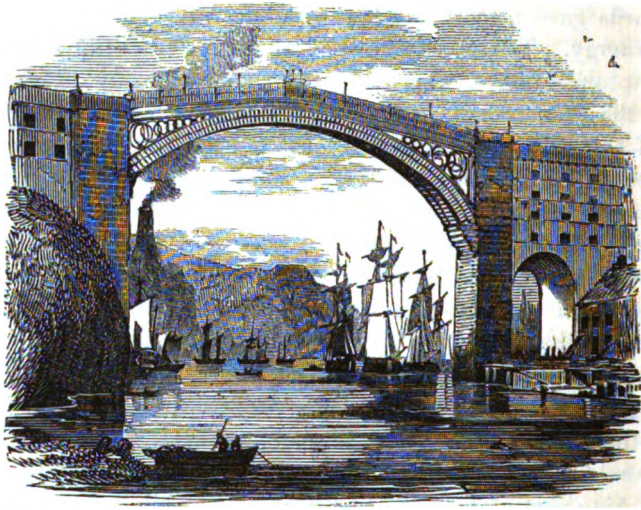
he had diligently cultivated. In divinity his reading was constant, almost to the last moment of his life. He was rich in the knowledge of the scriptures, and happy in his manner of expounding them; a neat composer, a grave and dignified preacher; but he was chiefly distinguished by the rare and more valuable qualities of his heart, by his unaffected piety, and unbounded benevolence. Mildness and condescension, humility and gentleness beamed from his countenance, and influenced all his demeanour, rendering him very amiable in common life, and much regretted by all who knew him. Of the sick he was a diligent and conscientious visitor; to the poor and needy a liberal benefactor. By his parishioners, among whom he had been abundant in labours more than half a century, he was greatly beloved; and no doubt the "*good old parson*" as they used affectionately to style him, will long live in their remembrance.—*Gen's Mag.*

1793 (Sep. 17).—The Infirmary at Durham was opened for the reception of patients, on which occasion a very excellent sermon was preached at the cathedral church by the rev. Dr. Dampier, one of the prebendaries, and dean of Rochester. After the service was ended a collection was made at the door, which amounted to £54. 6s. 7d. A procession commenced from the Palace Green to the Infirmary, consisting of the bishop of the diocese, the dean and prebendaries of the cathedral, the mayor and corporation of the city, Mr. Burdon, one of the county members, Mr. Clavering of Greencroft, the gentlemen of the faculty, the parochial clergy, and a number of other respectable inhabitants of Durham, benefactors and subscribers to this excellent charity. After inspecting the building, &c., the company dined at Shotton's. The building was commenced the preceding year in Allergate, on a plot of ground given by Thomas Wilkinson, esq. March 22d, 1793, the tragedy of Cato was represented at the theatre, Durham, to assist the funds of this institution; the parts of Cato and Juba being performed by W. Eddis and W. Smith, esqrs., of that city, which characters they supported throughout with great success. An excellent prologue was written for the occasion by Mr. Cawdell, the manager, and admirably delivered by him. The house was full in every part, and the sum of fifty guineas was paid into the hands of the treasurer of the Infirmary.—*Local Papers.*

September 24.—Being the day appointed for laying the foundation stone of the iron bridge at Wearmouth, a grand masonic procession took place from the Phoenix Lodge, at 11 o'clock, to church, accompanied with a great number of magistrates, commissioners, clergy, military officers, &c., when an excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Mr. Heskett, from 1 Thess. chap. 5. ver. 8., after which, the procession crossed the river on a platform, made on keels, to the

place where the stone was to be laid on the north shore. Arrived at the spot, Mr. Burdon, the projector of the bridge, addressed the assembly in a very able speech. The inscription on the plate being read, Mr. Burdon deposited the plate, and laid the stone with the usual ceremonies, assisted by William Henry Lambton, esq., M. P. and P. G. M., and the grand officers. The grand honours were then given by brethren, to which succeeded a salute of 21 guns, the band playing "God save the King," amidst the shouts of applause from the surrounding multitude. The grand chaplain (rev. Mr. Nesfield) afterwards gave a most excellent oration, which he delivered with great energy. The procession then returned across the river to the Sea Captains' Lodge, where it closed. The company afterwards dined at the Phoenix-hall. The last block of metal which completed the arch of this bridge, was placed by the workmen in September 1795. The use of iron had been already introduced in the construction of the arch at Coalbrook-Dale, in Shropshire, and in the bridges built by Payne; but the novelty and advantage of the plan adopted at Wearmouth, on Mr. Burdon's suggestion, consisted in retaining, together with the use of a mettalic material, the usual form and principal of the stone arch, by the subdivision of the iron into blocks, answering to the key stones of a common arch, and which with a much greater degree of lightness, possess when brought to bear on each other, all the firmness of the solid *stone arch*. The blocks are of cast iron, five feet in depth and four in thickness, having three arms and making part of a circle or ellipsis: the middle arm is two feet in length, and the other two in proportion; on each side of the arms are flat grooves three fourths of an inch deep and three inches broad, in which are inserted bars of malleable or wrought iron which connect the blocks with each other and are secured by square bolts driven through the shoulders, and arms of the blocks and bar iron, fastened by cotterells or forelocks. The blocks are cast in one piece; but their construction may be perhaps more easily explained by supposing them to be formed of bars. Each block will then appear to consist of three horizontal and two vertical bars, the former crossing the latter at the extremities and in the centre; thus a vacuum is left both above and below the centre crossing, and the vertical pieces crossing the horizontal ones at a distance of five inches *inwards* from their extremities, another vacuum occurs when two blocks are banded together, which very considerably diminishes the weight of this fabric when compared with the solid stone arch. The whole structure consists of six ribs, each containing 105 of these blocks, which butt on each other like the *voussairs* of a stone arch. The ribs are six feet distant from each other, braced together by hollow tubes or bridles of cast iron; and

thus the blocks being united with each other in ribs, and the ribs connected and supported laterally by the bridles, the whole becomes one mass, having the property of key stones cramped together. The whole weight of the iron is 260 tons; 46 malleable, and 214 cast. The piers or abutments are piles of nearly solid masonry, twenty-four feet in thickness, forty-two in breadth at bottom, and thirty-seven at the top; the south pier is founded on the solid rock; on the north from the less favourable nature of the ground, the foundation is carried ten

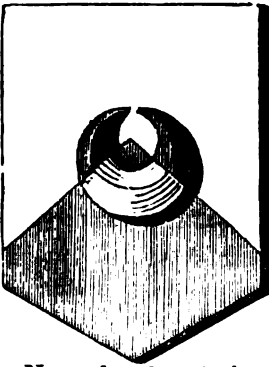


IRON BRIDGE, WEARMOUTH.

feet below the bed of the river. The arch is the segment of a large circle, of which the chord or span is 236 feet; the height from low water to the spring of the arch sixty feet; and its versed sine thirty-four feet; producing so flat an arch that ships of 300 tons pass the arch within fifty feet of its centre with great facility, having ninety four feet clear at low water, and abundance of depth in the mid stream. The spandrels of the arch are filled with iron circles, diminishing from the abutment to the centre; the superstructure is of timber, planked over, and supporting the carriage road, formed of marle, gravel and limestone. The whole breadth is thirty-two feet, with foot-path on each side, laid with flags, and bounded by an iron balustrades. June 18th, 1796, lieutenant general sir George Osborne, at the head of the royal Tay fencibles, and the North Lincoln militia, both quartered in Sunderland barracks, amounting to at least 1,000 men, marched across this bridge to be reviewed on Whitburn Sands. They were the first military corps that passed over that superb edifice. August the 9th, 1796, this bridge was opened for general use in the

presence of his royal highness Prince William of Gloucester, after a splendid masonic ceremony and procession, on which occasion, Rowland Burdon, esq., was appointed, *pro tempore*, provincial grand master. On that day all the shops remained closed, and it was computed that 80,000 people were assembled on the different sides of the river, but of so large an assemblage it is impossible to decide with any precision. The whole of this magnificent structure was completed within three years, under the able and zealous direction and inspection of Mr. Thomas Wilson, of Bishopwearmouth, architect. The arch was turned on a light scaffolding, which gave no interruption whatever to the navigation of the river; and the mode of bracing the ribs was so expeditious, that the whole structure was put together and thrown over the river in ten days, and the frame immediately removed. The whole expence of the undertaking was £261,000 of which £22,000 was subscribed by Mr. Burdon; the sums thus advanced are secured on the tolls with five per cent interest, and all further accumulation goes in discharge of the capital. This, at the time of its erection, was said to be the largest arch in the world. In October 1799, Mr. Carr, cabinet maker, in Sunderland, completed a model of this structure, consisting of nearly 9,000 pieces of wood, upon the small scale of two tenths of an inch to the foot; yet every joint and bolt was in regular proportion, and exhibited a perfect semblance of the original, although the whole was not five feet long.—*Surtees, &c.*

1793 (Oct. 10).—Some execrable villains set fire to a considerable stack-yard, at Fleetham, in Northumberland, which not only consumed the same, but several barns, byers, &c. contiguous thereto. The perpetrators of this diabolical act were supposed to be two women (or their accomplices) whom the farmer, Mr. John Howson, found in his house juggling his family, under pretext of fortune-telling, whom he forcibly thrust out, after their having loaded him with many and dreadful imprecations.—*Local Rec.*



Oct. 15.—Died, at his house in Saville-row, Newcastle, Mr. William Chapman, at an advanced age. Mr. C., among other useful discoveries and improvements, about the year 1758, proposed, and at sea established by practice, a means of rendering salt water fresh; the particulars of which are stated in a letter to Dr. Fothergill, and by him published and presented to the royal society.—

Local Papers.

November 2.—A dreadful fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Rich-

ardson, painter and glazier, at the head of the Painter Heugh, Newcastle, which could not be extinguished till the whole of the house above, and one adjoining, were nearly destroyed.—*Local Papers*.

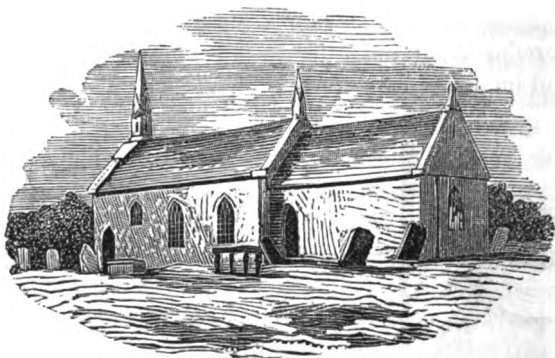
1793 (December 27).—An explosion took place in the Hope-pit, at Sheriff-hill colliery, when fourteen human beings were hurried into eternity.—*Ibid*.

This month, died at Ravensworth, George McLauren, in the 100th year of his age, many years servant to lord Ravensworth.—*Ibid*.

This year, the corporation of Newcastle lost a trial at York concerning the coal revenue, which greatly affected their income, in consequence of which most of the officers of the town had their salaries reduced.—*Ibid*.

Bereness chapel, in the parish of Elsdon, in Northumberland, was re-built this year by voluntary subscription. The old chapel had been long in ruins.—*Ibid*.

This year the chapel at Hebburn, in the parish of Bothal, Northumberland, was totally re-built. Dr. Bazire, at his visitation here, in 1674, found the *chapel* "most scandalously and dangerously ruinous : roof divided, under propt within with eight crutches, without with three ; the seats all upturned or broken." The new chapel was built on its old site : the proprietors of lands in the parish paying for the nave, and Mr. Smallridge, as rector of Bothal, for the chancel. The whole expence was about £700, of which Mr. Smallridge's share came to £148. 13s. Its nave is 55 feet by 18 feet 7 inches within : its chancel 25 and a half feet by 14 feet 8 inches. The masonry and internal fittings are good ; but its style of architecture trivial and bald.—*Hodgson*.



HEBBURN CHAPEL.

CHAPTER XVI.



ON the 24th of January 1794, a ship named the *Good Intent*, lying in Sunderland harbour, was discovered to be on fire; and before assistance could be had, the fire raged in such a manner as greatly alarmed every beholder: providentially, however, the tide being up, and the weather moderately calm, the vessel was removed into the middle of the river, which prevented the flames communicating to any other. But the fire was not completely got under before several of her guns, which happened, at that time to be loaded, went off; and nearly the whole of her inside, in the after-part, was consumed. This disaster was owing to the carelessness of the boys, who had left a lamp burning on board.—*Local Papers*.

January 25.—On the morning, a most dreadful storm commenced at Newcastle, in a most sudden manner; the wind blew from the north a perfect hurricane; it was preceded by lightning, and the highest vanes of St. Nicholas and Gateshead churches having been destroyed, it was supposed that they had been struck by electric fire. Several coal keels were lost in the river; five ships of considerable value were driven from their moorings in Shields harbour into Jarrow Slake. The *Barbara*, of Shields, was driven upon the Herd Sand, and went to pieces; the *Orwell*, of South Shields, suffered the same fate. The *Hazard*, of Sunderland, also went ashore at the same place, and the *Alexander* and *Margaret* was driven upon the rocks at the north side of the harbour; the crews were all saved. In the evening of the same day, three men were lost on the military road, about fourteen miles west of Newcastle; they found themselves unable to proceed with their carts, and were endeavouring to reach home with their horses. A man named Emmerson, was also lost the same

evening, between Newcastle and Shields. At Sunderland, on the above (Saturday) morning the river Wear was in the most violent agitation; numbers of vessels drove from their moorings, and one had her sails torn entirely to pieces. At Hartlepool, Redcar, Marsk, Saltburn, &c. great damage was done to the shipping; indeed, so destructive was the storm, that the whole coast wore a most dismal appearance from the great havock it had caused. Upon the high lands in the west parts of Northumberland, the storm was very destructive; many thousands of sheep were destroyed, several shepherds also lost their lives; four of them were buried at one church in Northumberland.—*Local Papers.*

1794 (Feb. 12).—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Gilbert Gray, bookbinder, in the 85th year of his age, an honest industrious man, who had been employed by Mr. Slack, and his son-in-law and successor, Mr. Solomon Hodgson, nearly forty years; he had previously been a shopman to Allan Ramsay, at the time he composed his "*Gentle Shepherd.*" Though in humble life, and tinctured with eccentricities, those who knew his worth greatly respected his character. He was the father of Mr. George Gray, the eminent fruit-painter. A small portrait of Gilbert Gray, was engraved for private distribution.—*Local Rec.*



March.—These two centurial stones were found in the murus, near Walbottle; and described to the Newcastle Philosophical Society by the late Mr. F. R. Wilson.—*Hodgson.*

March 9.—About noon, the impressed men, assisted by the volunteers, on board of the *Eleanor* tender, lying at Shields, commanded by Lieutenant C. King, taking advantage of the crew being at dinner made a sudden and most desperate attack upon the sentinels, and obtained possession of the ship, and in all probability would have effected their escape, but for the spirited and resolute conduct of the officers and crew, who, after a most desperate contest, wherein several were wounded on both sides, secured the greater part of the insurgents, and regaining possession of the ship; notwithstanding several got to the shore, most of whom were afterwards taken.—*Local Papers.*

March 11.—The foundation stone of the Cordwainers'-hall and

leather warehouse, in the High-bridge, Newcastle, was laid; JOHN TALLINTYRE and JOHN RATCLIFFE, stewards. They were built at the expense of the company of cordwainers. The first meeting in the new hall was held August 25th, 1794. The building has recently been converted into a button manufactory.—*Local Rec.*

1794.—The North York militia (commonly called the Black-cuffs) commanded by Henry earl of Falconberg, were at this period quartered in Newcastle. While they lay there, the eccentricities of their colonel, and the dilemmas in which he often placed himself and his brother officers, was frequently the cause of public satire, both in prose and verse. During the dread of invasion at this time, some wags in Newcastle, wishing to amuse themselves at the expence of the colonel, and the corporation of that town, had a report circulated that a descent had been made in great force on the coast near Bamborough castle, by the crews of three French frigates, who had carried off cattle, &c. Two letters were also received per post, by William Yeilder, esq., mayor, the one dated "Bamborough, March 19, 1794," signed "Henry Grey." The other dated "Tuggle-hall, Mar. 20, 1794." signed "Thomas Younghusband," acquainting him with such descent, the signatures purporting to be those of two magistrates in that part of the country. The information conveyed by these letters instantly threw the town into a state of alarm. Expresses were sent off to London and Edinburgh, requesting the aid of additional troops, which were in readiness to be sent off, when it was discovered to be a hoax. The letters were then published in the public prints, and the following rewards offered for the apprehension of the writers, viz: £200, by Government—£30, by the Corporation of Newcastle, and £20, by the inhabitants of Alnwick. These rewards were frequently advertised, but without effect,—the writers were never discovered.—*MS.*

March 22.—Died, general Lambton, of Lambton. He represented the city of Durham in five successive parliaments and was deservedly popular with the citizens for the gallant stand he made in defence of their dearest rights and privileges. He entered the service as an ensign in the Coldstream Guards, 12th Oct. 1722; was appointed major-general 26th Feb. 1761; Lieut.-general 30th April, 1770; and General, 30th Nov. 1782. The second battalion of the 23rd foot was formed into the 68th: John Lambton was their first Colonel; and this gallant corps still bears the name of the "Durham" Regiment. General Lambton retired from parliament in January 1787.—*Sharp's Burg. of Dur.*

March 28.—About one o'clock in the morning, the bakehouse of Mr. Robert Barton, situated on the boatbuilders' quay, South Shields,

was discovered to be on fire, which raged with such violence, that in a short time the building was entirely consumed, together with the utensils and stock.—*Local Papers.*

1794 (May 11).—A violent storm of hail, attended by thunder and lightning, happened at Durham. The electric fluid entered the upper part of the house belonging to Lowther Rutter, esq., in that city, which forced its way through several of the apartments, and did considerable damage. It afterwards penetrated the house of Mrs. Smith adjoining, melted and broke all the bell-wires, tore the wainscot and paper in several of the rooms, and set fire to two gowns that were hanging on the back of a chair, which Mrs. Smith, with wonderful presence of mind extinguished with the carpet. No person was injured in either of the families.—*Ibid.*

May 28.—About six o'clock in the evening, the bakehouse belonging to Mr. Mollison, at the foot of the Side, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire, and before proper assistance could be procured, the flames had communicated to the dwelling house, which, with the premises behind, were entirely consumed.—*Ibid.*

This month, a dispensary was established in Villiers' street, Bishopwearmouth, supported by voluntary contributions.—*Surtees.*

June 1.—This day, admiral earl Howe totally defeated the French fleet, by taking six ships of war, and sinking several others, on which occasion, on the arrival of the news in Newcastle, there were great rejoicings, ringing of bells, &c.—*Local Papers.*

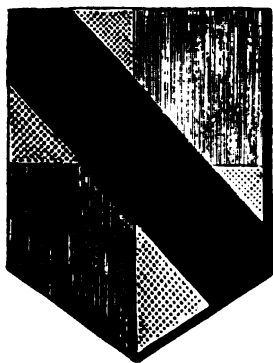
June 5.—Dorothy Ransom was buried at Hartlepool, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

June 9.—An explosion took place in Picketree colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which about thirty men lost their lives. Twenty-seven were buried in one grave, in Chester church-yard.—*Ibid.*

June 11.—An explosion took place in Harraton colliery, by which twenty-eight human beings lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

July.—There was a dispute between the keelmen of the Tyne and their employers. The keelmen did considerable damage to the staiths, and compelled many of the pitmen to leave their work; they also attempted to stop the workmen in the iron works at Swalwell, which was prevented by a party of military. Eight keelmen were apprehended and committed to Newgate, Newcastle, but were afterwards sent off, under a guard of horse, to Durham. The military employed on this occasion were the North York and West York militias, and Durham Rangers.—*Ibid.*

August 12.—Died, John Tempest, of Brancepath castle and Wynyard, esq. He was elected M.P. for the city of Durham in 1768, and continued its representative till his death.—*Sharp's Burg. of Dur.*



1794 (Oct. 14).—Died, Sir Thomas Clavering, bart., of Axwell Park in the county of Durham, which county he represented in four successive parliaments. He became a candidate for the representation of that county on the death of Mr. Bowes in 1760, but was not returned till the year 1768. The celebrated John Wesley took a lively interest in favour of Sir Thos. Clavering, and, in a circular to his friends, he writes 20th Nov.

1760—"I desire earnestly all who love me to assist him—to use the utmost of their power: what they do, let them do with all their might; let not sloth nor indolence hurt a good cause; only let them not rail at the other candidates. They may act earnestly, and yet civilly. Let all your doings be done in charity, and at the peril of your souls receive no bribe; do your duty without being tired; God will repay you both in this world, and to come."—*Sharp's Knts. of Dur.*

This year, died Francis Bone, of Tinker-row, near Ravensworth, aged 104 years.—*Local Papers.*

Died, at Berwick, John Cheeseman, a native of Hexham, aged 110 years. He enlisted as a soldier when twenty years of age, and served in the army forty-one years, when he was discharged, and received a pension forty-nine years. He retained all his faculties, and could read without spectacles till the day of his death. He got a new front tooth about three weeks before he died.—*Ibid.*

Lowick church, in Northumberland, was this year built. It will contain about 500 people.—*Mackenzie.*

An elegant theatre was this year built in Hide-hill, Berwick, by Mr. Stephen Kemble; previous to which time, plays had been performed in the Town-hall, and sometimes in a house in Golden-square.—*Local Papers.*

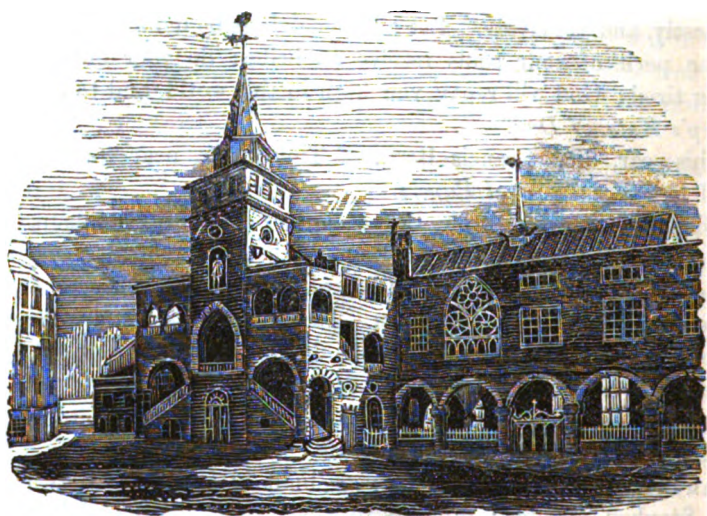
A general inclosure of commons, within the parish of Chester-le-Street, took place under an act of parliament passed this year. The several wastes divided were, Chester South moor, Chester West moor, Whitehill moor, Plawsworth moor, Edmonslay moor, and Pelton moor. Sixpence an acre was reserved to the see of Durham for ever.—*Ibid.*

In ploughing a field on the north east side of the Roman station at Lanchester, a plain votive altar, twenty inches in height, with an inscription was discovered.—*Ibid.*

Sunderland barracks were erected this year. They were put in commission in the beginning of the following year, the first barrack master being appointed March 25th 1795.—*Ibid.*

1794.—Formerly on the Sandhill, and at this time on the Quay, near the bridge, Newcastle, were people (chiefly women) who, in the open street, on market days, performed the office of barber, at one half of the regular price.—*Hist. of Newcastle.*

This year, the Town-court, or Guildhall and Exchange, in Newcastle, underwent a complete alteration, chiefly in that part which looks towards the Sandhill. The whole of the front was cased with freestone, as were also the pillars in the Exchange. The remains of the old steeple and stair-case were entirely taken down, and the present front re-built. The south front was also cased with freestone, in 1809. Previous to this alteration, there was an entrance into the Exchange from the south as well as from the north.—*Ibid.*



EXCHANGE, NEWCASTLE (1793).

1795 (Jan. 23).—In consequence of a violent storm of wind from the S. W., Thomas Hutchinson of Stockton, was driven to sea in the afternoon, in a small open boat, which was taking in white sand from the bed of the river Tees, near Clement's Beacon. The waves running very high, he soon lost sight of land, and never recovered it again in his boat. He continued alone in this perilous situation all the succeeding night, and the whole of the next day. He never experienced darkness during the night; the white surf, in a state of constant agitation, affording him sufficient light to lave the water from his boat. His mind was not particularly depressed; as this severe labour, the probable means of his preservation, was the constant and sole object of his attention. On the evening of the 24th, he was

taken up at sea. Holy Island being the nearest land, by the Argo, of Sunderland, which had been driven out of Whitby roads by the same gale. He never saw the vessel which preserved him till she had almost run him down. What renders this providential escape more wonderful is, that the boat sunk within ten minutes after he had left her.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

1795 (Feb. 11).—The ice on the river Tees, at Stockton, which had been frozen over for five weeks, broke up, which raised the river to a greater height than was ever remembered, being seven or eight inches higher than the great flood in 1771. Much damage was sustained in the warehouses, and the blocks of ice which were left presented the appearance of a frozen sea.—*Ibid.*

This month, a dreadful fire occurred in the farm-yard of Mr. John Elliott, at the Heugh, near Stamfordham, Northumberland, occasioned by his son, then a boy of five or six years old, making a fire (as he said) to warm the cows, they were so cold. He carried hot cinders from their own fire into the cow-house, lighted the straw, and came running to his mother to inform her that they would be warm now, for he had made them a good fire. When Mrs. Elliott went out, all was in a blaze, and it was with great difficulty their dwelling-house was saved. Two men were shockingly scorched in assisting to extinguish the flames.—*R. Robson's MS.*

March.—A small French privateer landed its crew near Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, the seat of lord Delaval, which they plundered, and carried off every thing moveable they found in the house, before the people of the neighbouring country were assembled in sufficient numbers to oppose them.—*Univ. Mag.*

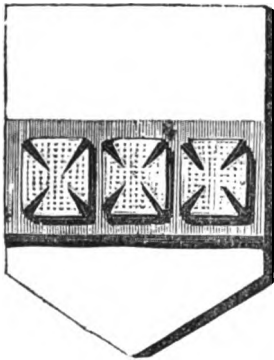
April 20.—About eight o'clock in the evening, as the small ferry-boat was crossing from Sunderland to Monkwearmouth, at an ebb tide, and the passage being much obstructed by the shipping, the boat was set fast by a rope, which the boatman went on board to loosen, and one of the passengers, by imprudently attempting to push it off, unfortunately overset it. The number of passengers in the boat at the time was supposed to have been about twenty-seven, of whom only four or five were saved. Among those who suffered were, Mr. Brian Burleson, mercer; Mr. Hodgson, a methodist preacher; Mr. Joseph Jobson, a sheriff's officer; Watson, a shoemaker, and his wife; a young man, servant to Mr. Martin, mercer; a sergeant and a private in the North York militia; Miss Robson, of the Low Quay; a servant girl belonging to the North Shore; a sailor's wife; a young lady, genteelly dressed, who appeared to be a stranger, &c., &c.—*Local Papers.*

June 30.—His royal highness Prince William of Gloucester, arri-

ved at Brodie's tavern (Turk's Head), in the Bigg-Market, Newcastle, from the north.—*Local Papers*.

1795.—At a common council held in June this year, James Wilkinson, Isaac Cookson, William Surtees, Richard Bell, and Aubone Surtees were severally fined and paid 200 marks for refusing the office of alderman of Newcastle.—*J. Bell's Col.*

July.—The beginning of this month, encampments were formed at the undermentioned places, on the coasts of Durham and Northumberland, which were composed of the following regiments :—Hendon.—Northumberland militia, Roxburghshire fencibles, and the Berwickshire fencibles, commanded by General Dalrymple. Whitburn.—8th regiment of foot, Durham militia, and Durham fencibles, by General Osborne. Whitley.—37th regiment of foot, royal Lancashire volunteers, North York militia, and a considerable park of artillery, by lord Mulgrave. Hartley.—4th dragoons, 21st light dragoons, 44th regiment of foot, 115th ditto (Prince William's), and the 1st West York militia, by Prince William of Gloucester. Cowpen.—7th light dragoons, 16th ditto, 55th regiment of foot, 84th ditto, and the Leicestershire militia, by General Balfour. The camps broke up in October.—*Local Papers*.



July 26.—Died, the rev. William Romaine, A. M. Mr. Romaine, who was born at Hartlepool, on the 25th of September, 1714, was educated at Houghton-le-Spring, and afterwards sent to Oxford, where he was first entered at Hertford college, and thence removed to Christ church. Mr. R. was rector of Andrews-by-the-Wardrobe, and St. Ann's, Blackfriars, and lecturer of St. Dunstan's in the west, London. He was a very eloquent and popular preacher, and a truly pious and good man. His works

have been published in eight volumes.—*Sharp's Hartlepool*.

August 8.—Saturday, Thomas Nicholson, who, on the preceding Thursday, had been convicted of the murder of Thomas Purvis, was executed on the Town-moor, Newcastle, and his body given to the surgeons for dissection, pursuant to his sentence. He was removed from Newgate, a little after nine o'clock, placed in a cart, and conveyed to the place of execution, beyond Gallowgate, attended by the sheriff, under-sheriff, and goaler, and guarded by the town-sergeants, constables, &c. A considerable time being spent in prayer by the rev. Mr. Moises, in which he joined with the most devout attention, and a well-timed admonition addressed to the surrounding multitude

by Mr. Knipe (who ascended the cart for the purpose) the unhappy man was launched into eternity. The circumstances which led to this melancholy event, as detailed in the evidence, were as follow:— On the evening of the 21st June (being Race Sunday), Mr. Purvis, who was a carver and gilder in Newcastle, was in company with some friends, in a tent upon the Town-moor, when some persons who appeared to be pitmen, quarrelled with the landlord of the tent, and refused to pay for what liquor they had drunk. Mr. Purvis interfered, by begging they would pay for what they had had, and go quietly away; which, after some further wrangling they did, and left the tent. In about ten minutes they returned, bringing six or seven more with them, all behaving in a most outrageous manner, their threats being particularly directed against Purvis. By the exertions of John Wallis, a constable, they were prevented from injuring Purvis at that time, and again left the tent threatening and swearing they would lay wait for him. Mr. Purvis left the tent about half-past ten o'clock, to return home, and unhappily met with these men. They immediately fell upon him, and beat him with their hands and feet in a most shocking manner; they were, however, interrupted by two gentlemen coming up, and ran off. Mr. Purvis was conveyed home in a post-chaise, which came up shortly after. He languished, in great agony, till the Sunday morning following, when he expired. Five of the offenders were taken, three of whom were placed at the bar, viz, Thomas Nicholson, John Nicholson, (brothers) and Francis Grey. Henry Turnbull and Thomas Maddox having been admitted evidence for the crown. The prisoners did not make any defence, and the jury having retired, in about ten minutes returned, finding Thomas Nicholson *guilty*; and the other two prisoners *not guilty*. Thomas Nicholson was in the twenty-third year of his age, and by trade a pitman. A very liberal subscription was set on foot by the Gentlemen Volunteers of Newcastle, (in which corps Mr. Purvis had been a musician) for the benefit of his widow and children.—*J. Bell's Col.*

1795 (Aug. 25).—The Newcastle volunteers, were embodied in the Forth, preparatory to their receiving the colours designed for the corps, and after going through various evolutions, Mrs. Mayoress (Mrs. Johnson), made her appearance and presented them to Col. Blakeney, the commanding officer, with an animated address, to which the colonel made a suitable reply. The corps then fired three volleys, and marched to the colonel's house, where the colours were deposited.—*Local Papers.*

August 26.—At six o'clock in the morning, the Newcastle Volunteers assembled in front of the lodgings of his royal highness the

duke of York, in Pilgrim-street, (he having arrived in Newcastle late the preceding night,) and waited till near nine o'clock, when his royal highness walked out to inspect the ranks, and after due examination, was pleased to express the highest approbation of their discipline. During the stay of his royal highness in Newcastle, the mayor and aldermen waited upon him, and presented him with the freedom of that corporation.—*Local Papers.*

1795 (Aug. 27).—His royal highness the duke of York proceeded to the coast to inspect the regiments then in camp, and on the following morning (Friday), the drums beat to arms in the several encampments, on the sea coast, between the rivers Tyne and Blyth; and between six and seven o'clock, the whole army, consisting of near 7,000, took its ground on Blyth sands, extending in length between three and four miles. Precisely at seven o'clock, his royal highness the duke of York, field-marshal and commander-in-chief of his majesty's forces, attended by his excellency sir William Howe, commander of the northern district, and their several aides-de-camp, came upon the ground, and rode along the line, after which, the army went through various evolutions and firings, accompanied by the field and flying artillery; and at eleven o'clock the review finished, much to the satisfaction of the duke, and upwards of 30,000 spectators. After the review, his royal highness returned to Newcastle, where he partook of an entertainment at the Mansion-house.—*Ibid.*

August 29.—His royal highness the duke of York visited the camps between the Tyne and the Wear, as well as those southward of the latter river. On his entering the town of Sunderland, he was received by the loyal Sunderland volunteers, with a royal salute of twenty-one guns, from the batteries, which was also repeated on his leaving the town. After having seen the bridge, barracks, and other works of that town, he reviewed the volunteers in the upper battery, where he was pleased to express in high terms, his satisfaction at the appearance, discipline, and exercise of the corps.—*Ibid.*

September 7.—A labouring man at the Doctor's Bush, near Widdrington, Northumberland, killed an adder, whose length measured upwards of four feet seven inches, and the girth upwards of five inches; but what was still more remarkable, in this reptile were found seventeen young ones, whose length measured upward of eleven inches and all alive.—*Univ. Mag.*

September 7 and 8.—The 23rd, or Ulster regiment of light dragoons, which had just been raised in Ireland, arrived in Newcastle, and on the 9th, after various meetings of the privates, they expressed a determination not to suffer themselves to be draughted into other regiments. It was said, that they were ordered to be incorporated

with Colonel Beaumont's light dragoons (the 21st), to which they were utterly disinclined; and in the evening, they assembled in various parts of the town, in rather a tumultuous manner, but were not the occasion of any ill consequences. About five o'clock, some of them broke open the repository for the regimental stores, and took from thence a large supply of powder and balls. About nine o'clock at night, the 4th regiment of dragoons, and about eleven, the 37th regiment of foot, arrived in Newcastle, from the camps, some of whom paraded the streets during the night, others were stationed as sentinels at all the gates of the town, and different parties were employed in dispossessing the mutinous regiment of the arms and ammunition they had furnished themselves with. The next morning they were drawn up in Northumberland street, when general Smith explained to them the propriety of the measure they revolted at; and after hearing their complaints of not having received the bounty they had been promised, the general assured them that all their arrears should be paid off before twelve o'clock the next day, which restored tranquility. The following is a copy of a small handbill, which was issued by the mayor:—

“A CAUTION to the Inhabitants of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

“As there is reason to suppose, that some ill-disposed people in town, are endeavouring to foment disturbances amongst the military;—*This is earnestly to request*, That all the sober-minded inhabitants will refrain from collecting in the Street, lest from an idle Curiosity, they should mix with those ill-intentioned People, and expose themselves to the Misfortunes that happen.

“*Mansion-house, 9th Sept. 1795.*”

Local Papers.

1795 (Sep. 8).—His grace the duke of Norfolk, ascended into the lantern of the highest spire of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle. He afterwards gave two guineas to the workmen employed. The steeple at this time was being repaired and painted.—*Ibid.*



October 20.—Died, at Bath, aged sixty years, of a liver complaint, which affliction he endured for some years with tranquility and resignation, Henry Ellison, esq., of Hebburn-hall and Gateshead park, in the county of Durham, comptroller of the issues and payments of the receiver general of the customs in the port of London, for thirty years. He inherited the Hebburn estate from his uncle Cuthbert Ellison, a general in the army, and M.P. for Shaftesbury in 1747, who died unmarried, 11th Oct., 1785, at Kensington. At the time

of his death he was the second general in the army, lord John Murray being then his senior, and the oldest.—*Hodgson, &c.*

1795 (Nov. 10).—A number of workmen employed in the neighbourhood assembled in Newcastle, and in the several markets seized the different articles of provision, which they, in the presence of the town's officers, sold out to poor and labouring people at reduced prices; the butter, intended to be conveyed to the hucksters, they retailed at 8d. per lb.; the wheat then in the market at 12s. per boll (the ordinary price in former years); and, after obtaining a knowledge of the depositories of the forestallers of potatoes, they sold them publicly at 5s. per load, and immense quantities were disposed of at that rate. Except the above outrages, no injurious acts of riot were attempted; every person received the stated value for his property, and no personal injury was offered.—*Local Papers.*



PANDON GATE, NEWCASTLE.

This year, Pandon Gate,* in Newcastle, was totally demolished. It was the fifth entrance into the town, through the ancient wall, and of great antiquity, even to a proverb. It stood across the foot of Pandon-bank, a few yards north of Stock-bridge. Grey and Bourne both considered it, (with the adjoining wall) to be of Roman

* This engraving is from a drawing by the late rev. Mr. Hornby, son of alderman Hugh Hornby, of Newcastle, esq.

origin; but Brand refutes the idea, clearly shewing that the Roman wall passed over the Wall-knoll, at a considerable distance, and in a directly contrary route. This venerable piece of antiquity, had folding iron gates; but no portcullis, and it was ascended by a flight of stone stairs, two yards in width. The tower was, of old, the hall of the Barber Chirurgeons; but as the west wall was destroyed in the wars of 1644, this society, in 1648, obtained a site in the Manors, whereon to build a meeting-house. On the summit of the tower was a curious arch, on which at one time grew an old, gnarled tree, amidst a quantity of long grass, and the whole structure, when perfect is said to have resembled three turrets, which stood on the wall between Pilgrim-street gate, and Carliol tower. The ancient town of Pandon or Pampeden, from which the gate took its name, was originally a place distinct from Newcastle; but was united thereto by a charter of Edward I. The kings of Northumberland had one of their palaces in Pandon, after the departure of the Romans, and there remained about a century ago some traces of the building, which, even then, was known as having a royal origin; but now nothing of



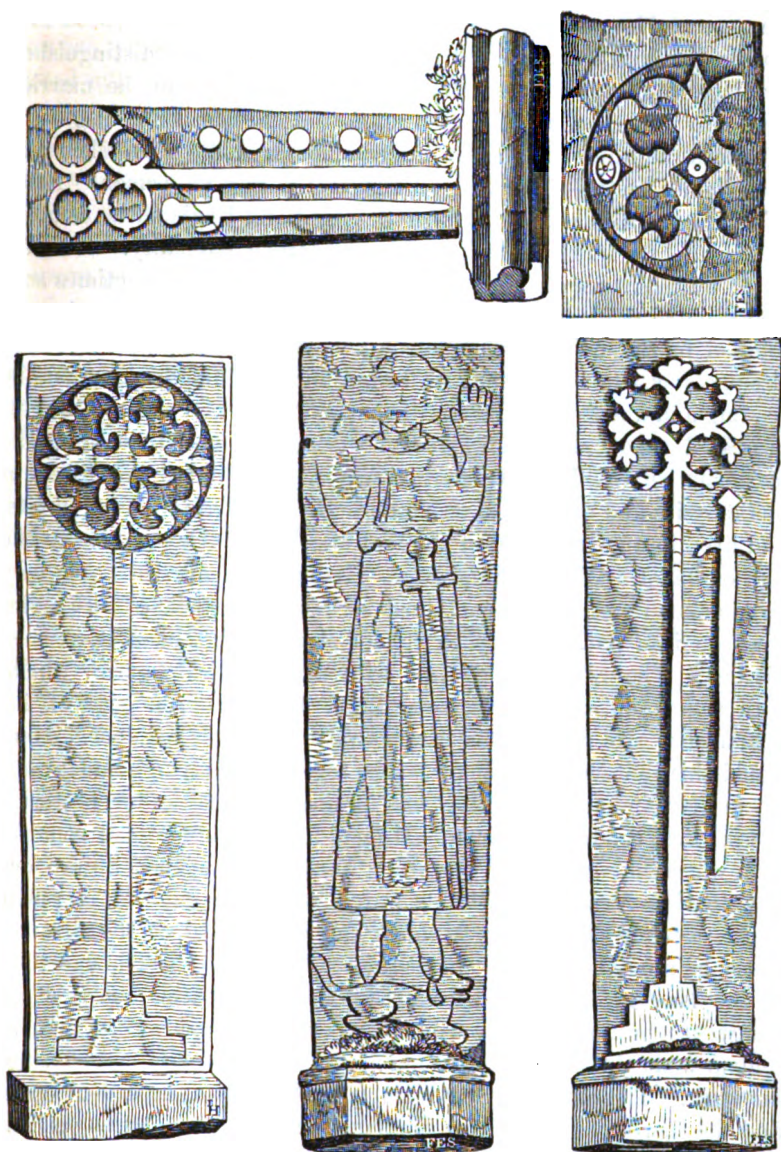
it is to be seen. A curious seal-ring was found near this place, many years ago, and mentioned by Dr. Stukely in his "Iter Boreale" as being in the possession of Wurburton, from whose map this engraving is copied. This relic, may, with great probability be considered as referring to these regal occupants. The Roman wall

passed on the north side of the town of Pandon, forming while it stood, a sufficient barrier against attack, but; when added to its larger neighbour, Newcastle embraced Pandon in her girdle of defences. Pandon gate had in ward that part of the town which extended southward to the Broad-chare on the Quay side, and like unto the other three and twenty wards, into which the town was divided, the inhabitants were trained to arms, and in the hour of need, confusion was avoided,—when the foe threatened, the walls were almost instantly alive from end to end with armed men, eager for the defence of their native town.—*MS. Col.*

1795.—This year, Mr. Thomas Robinson the first settled pastor of the independent church, Hexham, removed on an invitation to Monkwearmouth. Ebenezer chapel, the meeting house of this denomination, was founded in 1789; previous to which they met for worship in a house called the Globe, formerly an inn; and where this christian church was originally formed. The following is a list of its settled pastors. Thomas Robinson, William Robertson, John Scott, William Colefax, W. H. Hobson, and John Ward.—*J. Ridley's MS.*



1795.—As the workmen were engaged in taking up the foundations of the ancient chapel at Cambo, in Northumberland, for the purpose of erecting a barn and hemmel, several curiously sculptured grave stones, or covers of stone coffins were found. These and other similar sepulchral remains of the ancient lords and dames of Cambo, are preserved in the walls of the new erections, being carefully set upright on the capitals of the pillars of the chapel, as represented on this and the following page. One of them is ornamented in outline with the figure of a lady with a dog, the symbol of fidelity, at her feet: the others with flowered crosses, swords, and shears, mostly in relief. Devices of this kind were in common use in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Service continued to be done



in this chapel by the curate of "Cammo cum Herterton" during the reign of queen Elizabeth: but, after that time, it fell into disuse, and no holy offices have been performed here in man's memory; though the neighbouring people have sometimes acknowledged the sanctity of its precincts by burying, *sans ceremonie*, any friendless stranger or beggar, who has chanced to die among them.—*Hodgson*.

1795.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Thomas Squire, an eccentric

character. He was a native of Aberdeen, and was apprenticed to a stocking weaver, during which period of his life he was distinguished for piety, sobriety, and industry. When a journeyman, he married "a bonny lassie," whom he doted upon, but she turning a disgusting drunkard, he wandered the remainder of his days like a wretched outcast from society—suspecting all men and hating all women. After travelling through various parts of Scotland and England, he came to Newcastle, for which place he retained a strong partiality. He subsisted by making spits, toasting-forks, &c., which he sometimes sold wholesale to the hawkers of petty wares and which he occasionally retailed in the neighbouring villages. While in Ayrshire, several circumstances had combined to renew his youthful predilection for reading and abstruse inquiries. Thomas Squire, who was self taught, possessed considerable knowledge of the classics, and understood the mathematics well, but his attention was mostly directed to subjects of metaphysics and of political economy. He was of very retired habits, and lived in a garret room at the foot of a lane nearly opposite to the sign of Jacob's Well, in Sandgate. His furniture consisted of a very large oaken chest, which contained his books, a stool, a few porringers, an iron pot, and a sack full of straw with a blanket, formed his bed. The walls were covered with mathematical figures, which, with a few optical glasses, constituted the embellishments of his apartment. No woman was ever permitted to enter his door. Here would this solitary being sit for weeks together, studying some favourite author, indulging reveries, and projecting schemes for bettering the political condition of man. He had formed an Utopian republic with which he was highly pleased. Necessity compelled Squire one day to visit Newburn, with his wares, where, on entering a public house, a party of drunken keelmen threw him against the fire, because he refused to drink "*damnation to the French.*" The exertions of the landlady saved him from receiving much harm, but this circumstance produced a powerful effect on his mind. After this, he seldom went abroad, except to purchase provisions, and materials for his work. The outcry at that time (1794) raised against democrats, and the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, increased his alarms, and he persuaded himself that he had become an object of suspicion to the police; under this impression he sent for a friend, and communicated in confidence that he had removed a brick from the chimney and made a snug place for concealing his MSS., which he was sure would escape the search of the police should they visit him. This friend having occasion to leave Newcastle, learnt on his return two years after Squire's death, that his books had been sold to pay his landlord and funeral expences. This singular man, who at his death was about

50 years of age, was under the middle size, with a strongly marked Scottish physiognomy; his hair was red and tied in a queue, and he halted in his gait. He afforded a striking instance of how little is required to sustain life. His food was simple, and according to his own account taken in extremely small quantities at regular intervals. He entertained a high opinion of the nutritious qualities of turnips, and believed they would prove as wholesome and fattening to man as to animals, if regularly eaten. On the visit of a friend, he pronounced a warm panegyric on the excellent adaptation of this root for human food, and affirmed that for three months he had eaten nothing else; a bunch of turnips lay on the floor, and he pointed out the various and simple modes he had adopted for cooking them; he had also extracted a kind of spirit from turnips, which was bottled up. At this time he looked very pale, thin, and weakly, and his death was attributed to these dangerous experiments. His apartment, it is thought, is not now known, or the very curious MSS. which he concealed in the chimney might perhaps be recovered.—*Local Rec.*

1796 (January 20).—Died, at Wolsingham, Mr. Robert Wilson, aged 100 years.—*Local Papers.*

February.—There was an explosion in New Washington colliery, by which six persons lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

February 25.—The bakehouse of Mr. Hallowell, of North Shields, took fire, and burnt with such fury as entirely to destroy the building, with every thing it contained.—*Ibid.*

March 2.—Died at Sunnyside, in the county of Durham, Mr. Joseph Durham, aged 101 years. He had been in the army, and mounted guard at Whitehall, London, eighty-one years before his death.—*Ibid.*

This month, died, near Rothbury, Mr. William Charters, aged 105 years.—*Ibid.*

April 1.—The reverend Thomas Browning, minister of the Postern meeting-house, in Newcastle, laid the foundation of a new meeting-house, upon a more extensive plan, near the Postern-gate; after which he preached an excellent sermon. January the 1st, 1797, the chapel was opened for public worship.—*Local Rec.*

April 21.—His royal highness the duke of Bourbon, son of the prince of Conde, passed through Newcastle, on his road from Edinburgh to London.—*Local Papers.*

April 25.—The horse artillery, the 4th dragoons, the Newcastle volunteers, and the Leicestershire militia, were drawn up on the Town Moor, Newcastle, and inspected by Lieutenant-general sir George Osborne, previously to their being reviewed by him. There was a sham battle between the horse artillery and the foot soldiers; after a

short resistance the artillery gave way, and the foot pursued them from the low side of the moor to the Cow-hill, when the dragoons coming up to their assistance, they put the artillery totally to the rout.—*Local Papers*.

1796 (May 13).—Died, at Kirkwhelpington, in Northumberland, Mr. William Stephenson, aged 103 years.—*Ibid*.

May 16.—Died, in the workhouse at Durham, aged 85 years, *Thomas French*, well known in that city by the fictitious title of the *duke of Baubleshire*, which, on the decline of his understanding he assumed, and wherein he seemed to have more pride than any peer of the realm adorned with a real one. He wore a star composed of pieces of cloth of different colours, or of painted paper, on the breast of his *spencer*, a cockade in his hat, and several brass curtain rings on his fingers. He was so enthusiastically enraptured with his visionary dignity, as to imagine he had frequent correspondence with the king on the subject of raising men, carrying on the war, and other important matters of state. A portrait of this eccentric was lithographed at Durham.—*Ibid*.

May 30.—His royal highness prince William of Gloucester arrived in Newcastle, to take upon him the command of the troops in that district. June 23d, his royal highness was pleased to command the performance of "*The Fashionable Lover*," and "*Netley Abbey*" at the theatre royal, Newcastle. The house was crowded in every part, and his royal highness seemed happy with the respect paid to him by a most brilliant audience.—*Ibid*.

June 29.—The Newcastle volunteers were reviewed on the Town Moor by his royal highness prince William of Gloucester, who was pleased to express the highest approbation of the martial appearance and precision of manœuvre displayed by the corps.—*Ibid*.

This month, died, at the Blue Quarries on Gateshead-fell, Dorothy Atkinson, aged 109 years. She retained her faculties to the last.—*Ibid*.

The state of the river Tyne, in which sands and shoals had for several years been increasing, began, this year, to attract serious attention. A general meeting of persons interested was held at Newcastle in the month of June, Mr. Cardonnel, high-sheriff of Northumberland, in the chair, when a committee was appointed to enquire into the means of obtaining better navigation, by whom Mr. R. Dodd, an engineer of eminence, was employed to make a survey, and to report on the subject. In Mr. Dodd's plan and report, laid before the committee on the 9th June, this year; he strongly urges the advantages of forming a wet dock in Coble-dean; the removal of the in-sand; a quay from Coble-dean, or Milburn-place, to

the low lights; and, especially the building of a regular stone pier from the south point of the rocks, at low water, near the Spanish battery, up to the point near Clifford's fort. On the south side of the river, he also recommends extensive quaying, and the conversion of the mill dam into a dock. He further advised, for the improvement of both towns, the formation of a Tunnel under the river, from near the Wooden bridge, at North Shields, to near the Ferry-boat-landing at South Shields, in which the length of line would not exceed 600 yards.—*Local Papers.*

1796 (July).—The beginning of this month, military encampments were formed on the coast of Northumberland. The camps broke up the beginning of October.—*Ibid.*

July 12.—About twelve o'clock at night, as the crew of the Dunn, an Ipswich trader, were returning on board their vessel in the river Tyne at St. Anthony's, near Newcastle, they were overtaken by a sudden and heavy shower of rain, which drove them for shelter to whatever presented an appearance of a covering. The coal pit there was the nearest, and thither they ran as quick as possible; but either not knowing the nature of their sanctuary, or from some other cause, the mate, Joseph Smith, fell into it, and was hurried in an instant to the depth of thirty-five fathoms. Providentially the pit-rope had been left in its place by the workmen, and this he had the good fortune to seize in his fall, which, at thirty-five fathoms, was broken by the corf chain, otherwise he must have descended eighty fathoms, the depth of the pit. In this miserable situation he was suspended full half an hour, when his companions above having procured proper assistance, he was drawn out. His hands were dreadfully lacerated by the friction.—*Ibid.*

July 20.—The commodious new chapel at Haydon-bridge, Northumberland, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham. It stands on dry, gravelly ground, near the north end of the bridge. The site was given by the governors of Greenwich Hospital; and the structure reared under act of parliament passed in 1794. It consists of a chancel 16½ feet by 20, a nave 68 feet by 29, and a tower 12 feet square, inside measure. The building is admirably maintained, and has the rare ornament of a clock, which tells the hour on the outside of the tower.—*Hodgson.*

July 27.—A grand musical festival, under the patronage of prince William of Gloucester, commenced at Newcastle, and was continued during the three following days. The oratorios were performed in St. Nicholas' church on the mornings, and the concerts in the Assembly-rooms each evening. The elder Cramer was leader of the band; the tickets were £1. 11s. 6d. each, but the conductors of this under-

taking, it is said, lost one hundred and twenty guineas, besides all their trouble and fatigue.—*Local Papers.*

1796 (Aug. 18).—From a great quantity of rain having fallen, the rivers and brooks were swelled to an uncommon degree, which was attended with the most tragical effects. A youth about sixteen, the son of Mr. Watson, of Swarland, in Northumberland, in attempting to ford a brook in that neighbourhood, was drowned by the falling of his horse. At Morpeth two young women of most excellent character, the daughters of Mr. Thomas Purdy, gardener, were carried away by the current and lost. They were washing turnips for sale, by the side of the Wansbeck at that place, when one of them attempting to catch a piece of timber which was floating down, unfortunately slipped into the stream, and her sister attempting to save her, shared the same fate, in the presence of their distracted parents, who could render them no assistance. The body of one was found at no great distance from the fatal spot, the other was not discovered till the third day (Sunday), nearly four miles down the river. One of them was on the point of marriage with an industrious man in the neighbourhood, who very narrowly escaped the same misfortune in attempting to cross with a team. On the Monday the bodies of the young women were interred together, amidst the tears of their surrounding friends and acquaintances.—*Ibid.*

September.—By the pricking of an old waste filled with water, at Slatyford, in Northumberland, six persons unfortunately lost their lives.—*Ibid.*

September 19.—An alarming fire broke out on board the ship Lady Alleyne, lying near the lower end of North Shields. The vessel being afloat, it was immediately cut adrift, and towed out from amongst the other ships, which, together with his majesty's floating battery, the Redoubt, narrowly escaped the flames. The wind being from the south-east, the whole town of North Shields, and the shipping in the harbour, ran the greatest hazard of being consumed; but happily (the gunpowder having been taken out of the ship in the forenoon, and the guns being unloaded) the boats from the Redoubt, tenders, and other ships, conducted the burning vessel down through the Narrows, and by the help of the ebb-tide, got it to ground below Tynemouth barracks.—*Ibid.*

September 20.—About ten o'clock at night, as a gentleman's servant was returning to Newcastle upon a young and spirited horse, the animal took fright near Sandyford-stone, and the rider being unable to recover one of the stirrups which he had lost, he was carried at full speed along the lane, Percy-street, Newgate-street, and Low Friar-street, at the end of which, where Fenkle-street crosses it, (the horse

still pursuing a straight forward course) darted with such violence against the parlour window of Mr. Edward Smith, joiner and cabinet maker, in Fenkle-street, as to dash it to pieces in a moment, though



OLD HOUSES, FENKLE STREET, NEWCASTLE (1810).

defended by a strong shutter on the outside. During the whole of this perilous excursion, the man was fortunate enough to keep his seat; and except a little skin from the forehead of the horse, no other damage was sustained but the loss of the window, which was replaced by the owner of the animal.—*Local Papers.*

1796 (Sep. 21).—The bridge at Wooler, in Northumberland, was thrown down by a great flood. The bridge had only been finished three years.—*Ibid.*

September.—So great had been the importation of grain into Newcastle for some time, that no warehouse room could be obtained for storing it, and, in consequence, temporary wooden buildings were erected in a field adjoining the New-road, behind Sandgate, for 120,000 bushels. This place has ever since been called "*Egypt*," no doubt in allusion to those erected by Joseph in ancient Egypt. Those erections in 1803 were converted into barracks, but have since been partially removed.—*Ibid. &c.*

October 3.—His royal highness prince William of Gloucester, arrived at Sunderland, and took the command of the troops in that place.—*Ibid.*

October 5.—The Eclipse, Beaver and Manchester, transports,

arrived at Shields from Guernsey and Jersey, with 295 emigrant clergy, and ten women on board, under convoy of the Serpent sloop of war, W. C. Staples esq., commander. One of these unfortunate strangers fell overboard and perished on the night they arrived. October 8th, a transport with 150 of these emigrants sailed from Shields to Sunderland, where they took up their residence in the barracks.—*Local Papers.*

1796 (Oct. 18).—The timber-yard of Mr. Mawman, boat builder, at the high end of North Shields, was discovered to be on fire, which, in a short time, increased to such a degree, that almost the whole of his stock was destroyed to the amount of upwards of £300.—*Ibid.*

Oct. 21.—The round stone on the top of the steeple of All Saint's church, in Newcastle, was placed by the workmen; after it was laid, a man named Burdikin, a private in the Cheshire militia, raised his body upon his head, with his feet in the air, and remained in that position for some time upon this stone, which is 194 feet from the ground. Burdikin was a hair-dresser in Gateshead. There is a memoir of him, written by himself; in which he relates many of his hair-breadth escapes and curious adventures—*Ibid.*

October 29.—Died, at Kenmore, in Perthshire, Scotland, in the twenty-sixth year of his age, of a fever in the brain, Robert Johnson, painter and engraver. He was born at Shotley, in Northumberland. His father, Thomas Johnson, who was a joiner and cabinet-maker, removed to Gateshead, in order to indulge his son's propensity for drawing and engraving, and accordingly Robert was placed under Thomas Bewick. During his apprenticeship he was much employed in drawing, in which study he made great proficiency. Some of his pieces executed during leisure hours, were purchased by gentlemen of taste, amongst whom may be mentioned the earl of Bute. About the year 1793, when politics ran so very high, he designed and etched three curious caricatures, viz:—" *The Overthrow, or the Crisis is Awful and Momentous*;" " *A real Friend to his Country begs*;" and " *The Asses in Danger.*" These were intended to ridicule the ultratortism of the late Joseph Whitfield, bookseller, opposite to the Bridge-end, Newcastle. Johnson made an excellent drawing of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, from the north, which was engraved on wood by Charlton Nesbit. He also made a drawing of Sunderland bridge, which was engraved by himself and Mr. Hunter. About six months after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he was engaged by the Messrs. Morrison, booksellers, of Perth, to reduce the set of portraits by Jamesone and was sent to Kenmore, the seat of the earl of Bredalbane, to copy them for Pinkerton's " *Gallery of Scottish Portraits.*" He had finished fifteen, and there remained four

to copy, when, by his premature death, the fine arts sustained an irreparable loss, as his genius was soaring rapidly to a pitch of the highest excellence. In a letter from the Messrs. Morrison to Mr. Pinkerton, dated 18th November 1796, it is stated, that a few days before, they had received a letter from the man with whom Johnson lodged at the village of Kenmore, desiring them to send for him, as he was quite delirious, and by express the day following, they were informed of his death. That in his anxiety to complete his labour, he would sit all day in a room without a fire, a violent cold was the consequence, which, neglected, increased to a fever, "it flew to his brain, and, terrible to relate, he was bound with ropes, beat, and treated like a madman." This treatment was discontinued on the accidental arrival of a physician, who ordered blisters, and poor Johnson died in peace. A memorial was cut in wood, from one of his own designs, by his friend and fellow apprentice, Charlton Nesbit. From this engraving a limited number of impressions was taken, with letter-press, recording his death, &c., attached. It is a scene in a country church-yard by moon-light, with a female in tears, leaning on a tomb, inscribed "In memory of R. Johnson, 1796." A stone is erected in Ovingham church-yard, recording his early fate.—*Local Papers.*

1796 (Nov. 8).—A fire was discovered in a house occupied by Mr. Alexander Graham, ginger-bread baker, in Hillgate, Gateshead, which it entirely consumed in a short time, with all the furniture. The family, with difficulty, escaped with their lives, being asleep in bed when the alarm was given, and no mode of escape left, but by a window in the upper story, from whence they were taken.—*Ibid.*

November 25.—The town of Sunderland was alarmed by an affray, which occurred between the Westminster militia and the Lowland fencibles, both quartered there. It originated in the death of a tame goat belonging to the fencibles, which was wantonly killed by one of the militia. To appease the *manes* of their long-bearded play-fellow, which had followed the regiment out of Scotland, and was an universal favourite, the fencibles assembled under arms, and sent a defiance to their opponents, which was accepted; the parties were drawn up in battle array in the barrack ground, and the most bloody consequences were every moment expected, when the firm and strenuous exertions of his royal highness prince William of Gloucester, fortunately restored peace. The perpetrator was afterwards tried by a court martial.—*Ibid.*

November.—Died, at St. Helen's Auckland, in the county of Durham, at an advanced age, Mr. Michael Broadbelt, a most ingenious clock-maker, into which machines he had introduced a great number of improvements and novelties. Though his proficiency was the effect

of intuitive genius, and of application unaided by any previous instructions, his general skill in mechanics was displayed in great variety of curious inventions; some of his clocks contain small orreries—and others are furnished with chimes, said to be more strictly consonant with harmonic principles than such machines are commonly found to be. His mind, which, as well as his hands, was continually employed, appeared to have no bounds to its researches; and his most intimate acquaintance are of opinion, that he received little or no information from books; he was seldom known to consult any; and seemed only to have a small acquaintance with the best scientific writers even on his favourite subjects. To the superior force, then, of his native genius, must be ascribed his numerous productions which, in a more public situation, would have rendered him eminent. Lately, he planned and constructed an organ, which, by competent judges, was pronounced a good instrument, and was lately sold to a musical gentleman, for a considerable sum of money.—*Monthly Mag.*

1796 (Dec. 27).—That delightful mansion, Witton-castle, in the county of Durham, which had not been long re-built, at a vast expense, was discovered to be on fire; the flames raged with such violence, that all attempts to stop their progress were ineffectual. All the elegance of the internal structure was entirely destroyed, and the outer walls only left standing.—*Local Papers.*



WITTON CASTLE, DURHAM.

CHAPTER XVII.



N the evening of the 28th of December, 1796, a soldier wantonly threw a snowball, strongly compressed, at a person passing along the streets of the city of Durham, which struck him with such violence on the stomach, that he staggered into an adjoining house, and after uttering a complaint of the violence of the pain he felt in that part, dropped off the chair and instantly

expired.—*Local Papers.*

The seamen at Shields were extremely riotous this year, frequently depriving the masters of their command, and detaining vessels under way for sea. Seventy or eighty of the most audacious, however, having been taken into custody and impressed, order was again restored.—*Ibid.*

This year, a society was formed in Newcastle (to correspond with similar institutions in other parts) to propagate the Christian religion among Pagans, &c.—*Ibid.*

This year, the building of the Shot Tower, at the lead-works at Low Elswick, near Newcastle, was commenced. It was finished in the following year, and *was* in height 175 feet 4 inches. It is a circular brick building, with a stone cupola, terminated by a chimney. On the 6th of August 1814, during a thunder-storm, the electric fluid entered this building, and striking on the iron hand-rail of the winding staircase, it was conducted to the top of the tower, and forced its passage through the wall, a little below the cupola, tore off a quantity of plastering, then forcing its way up the chimney, threw off the top stones, which in their fall to the ground did no other damage than breaking down a part of the gallery, and penetrating the roof of an adjoining

building, where some men were at work, who happily (except Edward Lonsdale, slightly on the shoulder) escaped unhurt. Nearly all the windows in the tower were shattered to pieces by the violent shock.—*Local Papers.*

1796.—As a boy was climbing a tree in Gibside-wood, in the county of Durham, this year, with an intent to rob a hawk's-nest of its young, the old bird opposed him in the most vigorous manner, by striking her talons in his face &c. whereby he was soon covered with blood; after a most severe conflict of some minutes, the boy was victorious, and took his antagonist prisoner.—*Ibid.*

Wealeyan Methodist chapel, Berwick-upon-Tweed, founded. The register of births and baptisms, 77 entries, extend from 1797 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

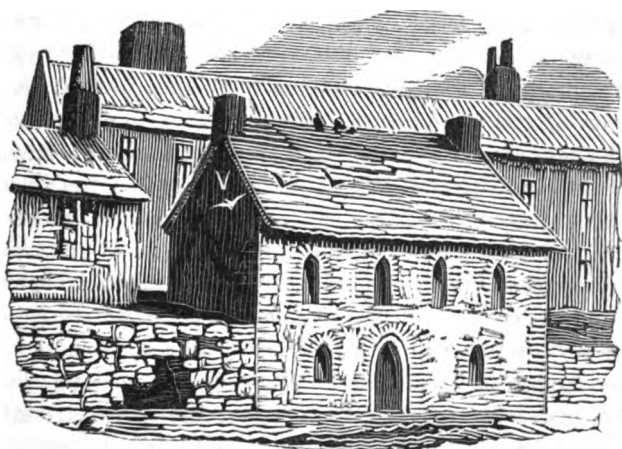
At the west end of the village of Ryton, in the county of Durham, and near the church, stands a very neat cross of this date. In the church-yard is a stone coffin, with the year 1610 cut on the exterior of the head; and on the floor of the nave of the church is a figure cut in Stanhope marble, with a lion at the feet. On a panel in the front of the gallery, at the west end, is the following inscription:—"The gallery of Ambrose Crowley, and the company of Smiths at Winlaton, 1703." The arms of the company are neatly painted on an adjoining panel. The Ryton savings' bank was the first established in England.—*Local Rec.*

Died, this year, Mr. J. Quinlan, surgeon, in Gateshead, then a prisoner of war at Point au Petre, in the island of Guadaloupe. Having experienced much ill treatment, he attempted to make his escape, but was discovered, and shot dead, by the guard.—*Monthly Mag.*

Throughout the years 1795 and 1796, as well as for some time previous and subsequent, projects were entertained for forming a CANAL-communication between Newcastle and Carlisle; and so completing a water conveyance from the Irish sea to the German ocean. 1794, Nov. 1st, a meeting was held in Newcastle, R. W. Grey, chairman, at which proposals were received from R. Dodd, civil engineer, who claims to be the projector, and first surveyor of the line. He soon after published a report of his survey, which was on the south side of the Tyne; together with a map of the District. 1795, Jan. 12th, a meeting on the subject was held at Hexham, when William Chapman delivered a report. His plan was for a canal on the north side of the river. Dodd was absent from illness, and afterwards complained of ungenerous treatment. These rival projects were put in competition at a meeting in Newcastle, July 2nd following; when the sense of the public was clearly in favour of the south line. The

sum proposed to be raised was £400,000, in shares of £100; and subscription lists towards preliminary expences were numerously signed both in Newcastle and Carlisle. The long delay which seemed inevitable in the execution of the project, led to its partial abandonment. 1796, April 16th, at a meeting in Newcastle, J. G. Clark, chairman, a scheme for a canal, from that town to Haydon-bridge was proposed, at an estimate of £80,000. This was to have been on the north side of the Tyne, whilst a rival project was still entertained of forming a canal on the south side of the river, from Stella to Hexham. Plans and estimates for both these schemes were published by John Sutcliffe; and for the south line by R. Whitworth, engineers. Notices of application to parliament for power to carry out each of these projects, were duly advertized: but from half measures they came to no measures at all—the phantom gradually disappeared—the bubble burst: but not till much expence had been incurred amongst rival engineers, and rival lawyers. Nearly half a century has elapsed—the scheme has been entirely superseded—and the water communication between the east and west seas, is numbered amongst those projects which are doomed never to be carried into execution.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

1797.—In the beginning of this year workmen were employed in taking down the toll-booth in Gateshead, which had stood there, since its last erection, nearly one hundred years, and wherein, for many ages, the bishops of Durham held regularly their manor courts. This measure was resorted to for the purpose of widening the public road, which runs through the central part of the High street. It was built at the expence of that venerable prelate Nathaniel lord



TOLL-BOOTH, GATESHEAD, as seen from the opposite quay.

Crewe, distinguished by his many princely charities, in Bambroughshire and other parts of the kingdom.—*Monthly Mag.*

1797 (Feb. 2).—In consequence of the alarm of invasion and the scarcity of specie, the notes of the four banks at Newcastle were poured in so rapidly, that at a meeting of the proprietors, held on the above day, it was resolved to suspend payment till specie could be obtained. The banks at Durham and Sunderland were reduced to a similar situation. A declaration, however, was signed by 689 gentlemen and tradesmen of the neighbourhood, purporting their resolution to take, as before, the notes of all the banks in Newcastle, Durham and Sunderland. Similar engagements, relative to the notes of the bank of England, and those of the different provincial banks, were likewise entered into, by the gentlemen, principal merchants, &c. in all other parts of the country.—*Monthly Mag.*



February 12.—On the morning of this day (Sunday), whilst Charles Atkinson, esq., alderman and merchant of Newcastle, was walking with his son, amongst his coal works, near Dumfermline, in Scotland, he went to examine the mouth of an old pit, and whilst looking down, a piece of timber on which he stood gave way, and precipitated him to the bottom, a depth of about 40 fathoms, 10 of which was supposed to be filled with water. It was several hours before his remains, which were considerably mangled, could be recovered. February the 19th, they were interred in the family burial-place in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, in the presence of an immense concourse of people, from all the neighbouring parts; whose unfeigned marks of real grief depicted his worth more forcibly than it is in the power of words to describe. As a magistrate, he was respected for his stern and incorruptible integrity, and punctual attention to the duties of his office; and, as a man, the goodness of his heart, and the affability of his manners, gained him the affections of all. His general worth and merits produced him an extraordinary popularity; and his life was justly considered as a bright example of moral excellence. He ever stood forth as a strenuous champion for the rights and privileges of his fellow-citizens.—*Ibid.*

A survey was made at this period for a canal from the Tyne to Chester-le-Street, and thence to Durham, by making the Wear navigable. Mr. Whitworth, the engineer, in his report, states, that the line and branch, from the natural levels of the country, were practicable and eligible. It was estimated that the article of coals

alone would produce an annual tonnage of £22,722. 15s. exclusive of what might arise from the opening of new mines; also that lead and other articles, would supply a further revenue of £2334. 3s. 4d.—*Monthly Mag.*

1797 (Feb. 27).—At night, the following relations slept together in one bed, in the Middle-street, Newcastle, viz.—1 grandmother, 2 mothers, 2 sisters-in-law, 1 daughter-in-law, 1 grandson, 1 aunt, 1 nephew, and one son; in all four persons.—*Local Papers.*



OLD HOUSES, HEAD OF MIDDLE STREET, NEWCASTLE.

March 24.—Died, at Bambrough, Mr. Henry Grey, innkeeper, aged 102 years.—*Ibid.*

May 18.—A most terrible thunder storm came on at Newcastle; the flashes of lightning were extremely vivid, and succeeded each other with great rapidity; the thunder was tremendously loud, and was accompanied with an incessant torrent of rain, which continued several hours. Two horses and a cow, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, were so terrified, that they killed themselves in the stalls.—*Ibid.*

June 5.—Being the day appointed for the celebration of the birthday of King George III., the Sunderland loyal volunteers were presented with an elegant pair of colours, by the lady of William Russel, esq., of Brancepeth.—*Ibid.*

June 13.—The foundation stone of a new theatre at North Shields was laid in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. The rev. Mr. Haswell delivered an extempore address on the occasion, which, as being both friendly and impressive, was well received. Mr. Q. Blackburn invited the gentlemen present to partake of a social bottle

of wine with him, after the business was concluded, when success to the undertaking was drunk with great cheerfulness. The bells were rung most of the afternoon.—*Local Papers.*

1797 (June).—Military encampments were formed on the coast of Northumberland. The camps broke up in September.—*Ibid.*

This month, in working a slate quarry near Barnardcastle, a toad of great magnitude was discovered in a large stone (solid, excepting the spot occupied by the incarcerated animal). The toad died immediately on being exposed to the air.—*Ibid.*

July 16.—There was a most terrible tempest of thunder, lightning, and rain, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle. To the eastward of that place, it was truly awful. At Whitley-camp, the lightning set fire to the whins placed as a facing to the sheds of the East and West Lothian cavalry, and the wind blowing briskly, the whole line was almost instantly in a blaze; three of the horses were struck dead instantly, and two more nearly suffocated; the remainder were saved by the men having cut their collars on the first alarm. The poor animals, terrified by the fire in their front, and rendered desperately furious by the loud and almost incessant peals of thunder, and the quick and vivid flashes of lightning, galloped off in every direction; several of them, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, came foaming through the streets of Newcastle, to the great danger and terror of the inhabitants, many of whom joined the men in pursuing and securing the exhausted animals. The fore top-mast of the Good Intent, lying in Shields harbour, was shattered by the lightning.—*Monthly Mag.*

August 16.—A fine set of eight bells, cast by Messrs. Mears, of London, for the beautiful spire of All Saints' church, in Newcastle, was on the above day landed on the Quay, at that place. October the 11th, they were rung for the first time, when a complete peal of grandsire triples, consisting of 5040 changes, were rung in three hours and one minute, by the Union Society of Newcastle and Gateshead, in celebration of Admiral Duncan's victory over the Dutch fleet off Camperdown.—*Local Papers.*

September 19.—An affray took place in Newcastle, between the West Lowland fencibles quartered there and the Cheshire militia, who were passing through from Blyth camp to Carlisle. The inhabitants were very much alarmed, as some bloody scenes took place in various parts of the town, with bayonets, &c. and in the darkness and confusion of a nocturnal tumult, some of the town's people received blows and bruises. Near thirty of the military were wounded, some dangerously. The disturbance was finally suppressed by the Dumfriesshire light dragoons, who were called out and scoured the streets.

General Este, next morning, on the parade, acquitted the militia of beginning the riot, and promised to bring the offenders to justice if they could be discovered.—*Local Papers*.

1797 (Oct. 19).—There was a grand illumination in Newcastle and Gateshead, in honour of the victory obtained by the British fleet, under admiral Duncan, off Camperdown. The towers of All Saints' and Gateshead churches, made a brilliant show, as did also the Mansion-house, and many private houses, in the exhibition of transparencies.—The furniture of a house in the Groat-market took fire, but being early discovered, it was prevented from spreading beyond the room where it began. Several of the ships in the river also displayed a number of lamps. The Infirmary was brilliantly illuminated, which had a grand and imposing effect. Most of the towns in the two counties were illuminated on this occasion.—*Ibid*.

October 19.—The common council of Newcastle imposed a fine of 200 marks each on Alex. Adams, Jonathan Sorsbie, George Lake, Wm. Darnall, and William Kent, for refusing the office of alderman, and 100 marks on Thomas Burdon, for refusing that of sheriff. None of these fines were paid, as the common council were held to be incompetent to act, owing to one of the aldermen present (J. E. Blackett, esq.) having been, sometime before, disfranchised to render him a competent witness on a trial, and afterwards re-elected alderman, without being re-admitted to his freedom.—*J. Bell's Col*.

November 11.—A pig about eleven months old, which had been that morning (Saturday) carried in a cart covered with a sack, from Mr. Pemberton's farm at Cleadon, to his house at Barns, near Sunderland, a distance of nearly six miles, made its escape from the place of its confinement, and all search for it proved fruitless; it was traced near to Pallion, by the side of the river Wear, which it must have crossed by swimming on Monday, as it returned to the field from which it had been taken at Cleadon, about noon on Tuesday. A singular instance of the instinctive faculty in brutes.—*Local Papers*.

November 22.—During a very heavy storm, the *Felicity*, of Aberdeen, was driven into the bay between Holy Island and Warren, and in attempting to make the harbour, she got aground, and afterwards went to pieces. Duncan, the pilot, had his thigh bone broken, was washed overboard and drowned. The desperate situation of the crew drew a number of commiserating spectators to the beach, one of whom, Martin Henderson, foreman to Messrs. Watson and son, of Warren mill, with an ardour of philanthropy and intrepidity, proposed, if any would join him, to procure a boat from Bamborough castle, to attempt the relief of the crew, but the tremendous waves that were breaking over the shattered bark, appalled every other heart, he

therefore, as a last and almost hopeless expedient, tied a rope round his waist, and giving the other end to his companions, dauntlessly plunged into the boisterous sea, trusting that either by swimming or the recurrence of the waves, he might reach the vessel, which he fortunately accomplished ; the master immediately plunged in to meet his deliverer, and after being dragged on shore, Henderson twice returned, and thus saved the lives of three of his fellow-creatures, who must otherwise inevitably have perished, as the last man had not been three minutes on shore, till the vessel broke up.—*Local Papers.*

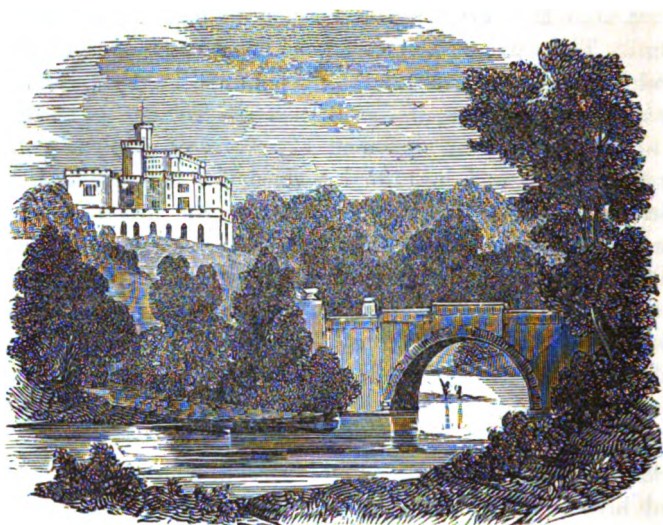


1797 (Decem. 4).—Died, William Henry Lambton, of Lambton, esq. He was the eldest son of major-general John Lambton and lady Susan Lyon, daughter of the eighth earl of Strathmore, and was born Nov. 15th 1764. After an education at Eton and at Trinity college, Cambridge, and after some time spent on the continent, Mr. Lambton, in 1787, succeeded his father in the representation of the city of Durham, for which he continued to sit till his death. Mr.

Lambton, in his parliamentary career, adhered steadily and honourably to the whig principles, to which his family had been long attached. He possessed the natural advantages of an elegant figure, a graceful manner, and a clear and articulate delivery. A fluent, yet manly and nervous eloquence, acute powers of reasoning, and a fund of happy allusion and illustration, drawn from a mind stored with classical acquirements, soon distinguished him from the herd of parliamentary speakers, and commanded the respect and attention of the house, even at that bright period when those master-spirits Pitt and Fox, each in his highest ascendant, threw all minor talent far into the shade. Mr. Lambton's attention, ever vigilantly awake to subjects of constitutional importance, was directed to no object more steadily than to that of parliamentary reform ; and in 1792 he signed, as chairman, the "Declaration and Address of the Society of Friends of the People, associated for the purpose of obtaining a Parliamentary Reform." The views of the association were exposed to much misinterpretation, and Mr. Lambton defended the principles and proceedings of himself and his associates, both in and out of parliament, with talent and with spirit. "From a state of confusion (he observes) I have every thing to lose, and nothing to gain ; and I must hope that neither my head is so weak, nor my heart so wicked, as to seek the misery of others at so great a personal risk. All I wish is, to see this happy constitution reformed upon its own

principles, and that every reparation may be made in the stile of the building." The same principles (it is almost needless to add) which actuated the whole of Mr. Lambton's political life, rendered him adverse to the interference of the British government in the internal affairs of France, and an opponent of several consequent restrictive measures at home; and in 1795 his voice was last heard in parliament in opposition to the bills for altering the laws of treason and sedition. In the autumn of that year Mr. Lambton's friends were alarmed by his betraying some symptoms of a consumptive tendency. He retired to the country, and was unable to resume his place in parliament after the Christmas recess. In the following year he was advised to try the effects of a warmer climate, and embarking with his family at Woolwich, in a neutral vessel, reached Naples after a voyage of two months. An Italian air and sky seemed to promise a total renovation of constitution, and Mr. Lambton proceeded with renewed health and spirits to Rome. But there his strength visibly declined, and impressed him with a fixed presentiment of approaching dissolution. He returned towards Tuscany, and after being detained by illness at Sienna, reached Pisa on the 30th of November, and expired four days afterwards, at the early age of thirty-three. His remains were interred at his own request in the English burial-ground at Leghorn. Mr. Lambton's public life has been briefly traced. On subjects of high political importance, on which variety of opinion always has existed, and ever will exist, he differed with many wise and good men, and from the ablest of his opponents he received the tribute of respect due to talent and unblemished integrity. The praises due to his private life are still less disputable. In every domestic relation; in the spring and in the noon of life, moving in the highest rank of British society, he stood untainted by the contagion of vice or of folly, "blameless and pure—and such was his renown." He has left to his descendants the memory of his many virtues, a mirror to reflect their honour or their disgrace, an inheritance purer and richer than the long traced blood, or the ample possessions of their ancient line. May his latest posterity emulate his private worth and public integrity.—*Surtees*.

1797.—Lambton castle, the seat of the earl of Durham, was built. It occupies an eminence on the north bank of the river Wear, the identical site of Harraton hall, anciently the residence of the D'Arcys and Hedworths. This edifice, erected by Bonomi, is pleasantly situated in an extensive park, seven miles in circuit, and intersected by the river Wear, over which is thrown a simple, yet elegant bridge, of one arch. Though not entirely free from incongruities in the design and execution, the castle presents a magnificent appear-



LAMBTON CASTLE, DURHAM.

ance; and the judicious improvements that have been effected by the late noble proprietor, add greatly to the chastity of the mansion, and to the beauty of the park. The library, a quadrangular apartment of good proportions, contains a choice selection of literature, and several family paintings of excellent character. The grounds are disposed in the most effective manner; and the ride, through a hanging wood, on the south bank of the river, is beautifully romantic. For some time races were annually held in the park in October. They were commenced in 1821, by the late earl of Durham, for the amusement of himself and friends; and, in consequence of the general interest excited, his lordship threw them open to the neighbouring gentry: but from the ill health of the noble proprietor, and a residence abroad, these races have been discontinued.

1797.—A patent ropery was, this year, established by Messrs Grimshaw, Webster, and Co. at Deptford on the Wear. The machinery is worked by a steam-engine of about 16 horses' power, in a building of four stories, about 100 feet long and 30 broad—the use of the long rope-walk is totally excluded; and whole is performed by the machinery specified in the patent. This ropery is capable of manufacturing 500 tons of cordage annually, working only in the day; but as it may be worked by night as well as by day, 1,000 could be supplied if required. The advantages recited in the patent are to the effect that, by the mode therein described, the strain on each part of the rope is equalized; and in the thread or yarn, the fibres of the hemp are dispersed *longitudinally*, and, instead of being spun from

the *bite* or *double*, are spun from the end of it. In the *strand*, the yarns are dispersed in spirals, each yarn increasing in length in proportion to its distance from the centre; and in the rope itself, each *strand* is regulated by machinery, so as to be made of equal length, and thus every part is so disposed as to afford its proportional aid when the rope is strained. By experiments, made at Shields, Sunderland, Liverpool, and London, in 1806, it appeared that ropes made by this machinery possessed nearly double the strength of those of equal dimensions on the common principle, and that the durability of the former in mines, where they are exposed to much friction, was in the same proportion.—*Surtees, &c.*

1797.—Bethel chapel (methodist new connexion) Alnwick founded. The registers of births and baptisms extending from 1800 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Newbrough chapel, Northumberland, dedicated to St. Peter, was erected this year, and is a well-built pile, with well-squared quoins, but shapeless withal, and without bevel, moulding, or mullion. Its site in the Stancroft grounds is such as Devotion itself would have chosen—sweet, silent, and sequestered, in a cemetery of more than two acres, with a solitary lane on one side, and surrounded with lands rich in herbage and trees, overlooked by distant heights on every side. In a contiguous field is *St. Mary's Well*, the mouth of which is arched with masonry, and till recently had a bath before it. This perennial fountain is by the side of the path from Newbrough to the chapel; and in old times, by the aid of the Virgin, did many marvellous cures; and it is still credited that no aquatic reptile can live in it. But this Siloam of the surrounding villagers is broken down, and they can now no longer resort hither to “wash and be clean.”—*Hodgson's Northd.*

The methodist meeting-house, in Walker-gate-lane, Berwick, was this year built. It is in the Gothic style.—*Mackenzie.*

The register of births and baptisms of the Wesleyan methodist community of Hexham, extend from 1797 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Zion chapel, in Sunderland, (methodist new connexion) was this year built.—*Local Rec.*

Baptist chapel Sunderland founded. The register of births extending from 1797 to 1837.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

This year, the Close Gate, a portion of the walls of Newcastle, was removed. The gate has without doubt received its name from being situate in the Close, and the inhabitants of both sides of the street as far east as the Javel Grippe, were, in ancient times bound to defend it. Remarkably little is recorded of this building, mention of it never occurring until the time of the civil war of 1644, when it appears to



CLOSE GATE, INSIDE, 1790. DESIGNED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

have received considerable damage in the celebrated siege of that year, for an order in common council occurs, on March 22, 1648, (four years after) for the repairs of the piers of the arch. In 1669 a list of old salaries for the shutting and opening of the gates appears in the council books, and the porter of this gate received yearly 13s. 4d. for his care; but on October 21, 1695, an order occurs for his salary (among the others) being discontinued. In 1745, when the town was in daily expectation of an attack from the rebels, this gate with some of the rest, were built up, for greater security; but as the event shewed, such precaution was needless. After the fall of the bridge in February, 1771, the apartments over the gate were made use of as a temporary prison, in default of the tower on the bridge, which had been occupied for a like purpose; but only three committals seem to be recorded. The first is a man for assaulting a boy in September, 1775, and in December, in the same year, on a Thursday night, George Ramsay, who was in custody for not appearing to his bankruptcy, with another, for robbing a till. These two last would appear to have been confined in the upper apartment, for by cutting a hole in the ceiling, they escaped by the roof, unobserved. In 1794 the prisoners were allowed two pence per day, as in Newgate, the great prison of the town. Three years after, we reach the time of its removal, when it appears that its claim as the defender of our

forefathers, the seen of ages, and its historical importance, formed with those in power no arguments to be compared to those adduced by the trafficker, who asserted, and perhaps with truth, that his merchandize could not pass the arch, and that it interfered with their convenience. It was however voted to destruction, and soon disappeared. It was a gloomy, massive and lofty structure, four stories in height, and contained three rooms one above the other. Owing perhaps to the narrowness of the street, there were no apartments on the ground floor, the archway occupying two thirds of its width. The rooms were lighted by three small windows on the side fronting the east, and it appears to have been plain on the outer face; but the upper apartment seems to have been lighted in the south by two small windows of the same size as the others. The entrance into the tower is supposed to have been by a door-way within the arch.—*MS. Col.*

1798 (Jan. 3).—The new theatre at North Shields was opened. Cawdell's (the manager) occasional address was well received, as were the new comedy of "*A Cure for the Heart Ache*," and the farce of "*Lock and Key*." The house was not so crowded as was expected, though very respectable. January 8th, being fixed for the masonic opening of this theatre, the procession, which was most numerous and respectable, took place from the Star and Garter, where the Zion lodge was held. The new comedy of "*Wives as they were, and Maids as they are*," was performed. The house was nearly a bumper, and every part of the performance went off with general *eclat*. Cawdell's new song of "*The Dutchman's jacket fresh trimmed, or the Cuffs for the Cape*," was requested by the brethren, and sung by the author with the usual applause.—*Local Papers.*

January 25.—In the evening of this day (Thursday), between nine and ten o'clock, a fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Elliott, hatter, in Dean street, Newcastle, which, in a few minutes communicated to the dwelling-house above, occupied by Mr. Matthew Brown, printer, and in a very short time extended to that of Mr. John Rankin, both of which were entirely destroyed. The flames spread with such dreadful rapidity, that only a few trifling articles of furniture could be secured, and Mr. Brown's family did not save any of their clothes, except those they wore when the fire was discovered. On the first alarm, a drum was beat to arms, on which the military attended and rendered very essential service. The fire at one time, raged with such tremendous violence, that the Shakspeare tavern, and the buildings on the lower side, for a great length of time, appeared to be in the most imminent danger; but, fortunately, they suffered no considerable degree of injury, though the destruction of furniture, &c., by their

hasty removal, was very greivous to the owners. On the 29th, Mr. Elliot, in whose shop the fire had originated, was taken into custody, on a charge of having wilfully occasioned the same; and after a long examination, before the magistrates, he was fully committed for trial. At the assizes in August, he removed his trial by *Habeas Corpus*, from the town to the county, and was acquitted.—*Local Papers*.

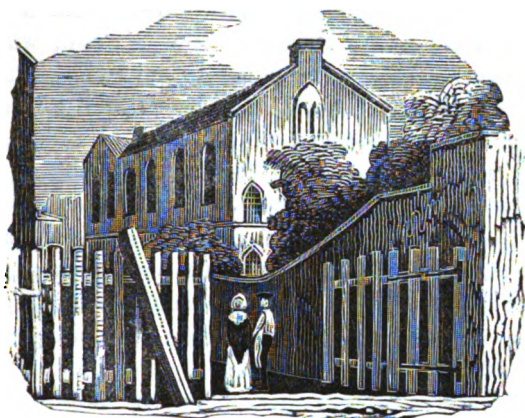
1798.—(January).—Died, at South Shields, Ann Patterson, aged 102 years.—*Ibid*.

January.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Mr. James Palmer, a celebrated vendor of *nostrums* and *quack medicines*, known by the name of Doctor Palmer. He was 100 years of age, and for the last 30 years of his life, he was so far from adhering to the rules generally esteemed essential to the preservation of health, that he seldom went to bed sober. He served as a private soldier in the royal army, in the year 1715, and at the age of 73, with only five shillings in his pocket, walked from Newcastle to London, and back again, in the short space of eleven days, one of which he spent in the metropolis.—*Ibid*.

February 5.—Died, at Newhouse, near Eshe, in the county of Durham, the rev. Ferdinand Ashmall, a Roman catholic clergyman, in the 104th year of his age, and the 73d of his ministry.—*Monthly Mag*.

Same day, the new clock in All Saints' steeple, Newcastle, was put in motion. It was allowed to be a beautiful piece of mechanism. On the front of the clock, in the inside of the steeple, is a plate with the following inscription :—" This clock was made by order of the trustees for building this church, by John Thwaites, Clerkenwell, London, 1797. Samuel Lawton, clerk and treasurer, for John Greaves, Quay-side, Newcastle."—*Local Papers*.

February 11.—The Roman catholic chapel in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, was opened for divine service, on which occasion the rev. James Worswick, assisted by several French emigrant clergymen, officiated at the celebration of high mass, being, it is supposed, the first performed in Newcastle since the reformation. The choir was composed of the rev. John Yates, of Eshe, near Durham; the rev. John Bell, author of *Wanderings of the Human Intellect*, published in Newcastle in 1814; the rev. Thomas Lupton; the rev. George Barrett; and the rev. Basil Barrett, author of the *Life of Cardinal Ximenes*, published in Newcastle, 1813. All these gentlemen were then students at Crook Hall college, and had been prisoners in France. The chapel is a brick building, dedicated to St. Andrew. It is 85 feet in length, 35½ feet in breadth, and 24 feet in height, and is lighted by six large Gothic windows on the south side. At the



CATHOLIC CHAPEL FROM CARLIOL SQUARE (1833).

west end is a large gallery, in which a fine-toned organ, built by Donaldson, was placed in 1802. Mr. Worswick, who is a much respected and benevolent clergyman, still officiates in this chapel, which has recently received some very beautiful and extensive additions.—*Mackenzie, &c.*

1798 (Feb).—As some workmen were digging on the Law-hill, at South Shields, the property of Nicholas Fairles, esq., they discovered the remains of a Roman hypocaust. A sketch taken at the time was in possession of Mr. Fairles, with some fragments of the masonry, which consisted of brick and dressed freestone, intermingled; the lowest course was of rough whinstone evidently brought from the shore, as the barnacles (*patella vulgata*) were still adhering to them. A beautiful gold coin of Marcus Aurelius, and several small brass coins from Claudius Gothicus to Valentinian, which were dug up at the same time, were in the possession of Mr. Fairles.—*Surtees.*

February 11.—Died, at Dipton, in the parish of Lanchester, Catherine Johnson, in the 106th year of her age.—*Local Papers.*

February 17.—At a meeting of the governors, stewards, and brethren of the fraternity of Hostmen of Newcastle, it was resolved that the sum of one hundred pounds be subscribed by this company at the Bank of England, in aid of government, for the defence of this country; and that the like sum of one hundred pounds be continued annually during the war, so long as the funds of the company would admit of it.—*Ibid.*

February 19.—The baptist chapel, at the head of the Tuthill-stairs, Newcastle, was opened for divine service. The foundation-stone was laid on the 17th of July in the preceding year. The chapel measures 55 feet in length, and 44 feet in breadth, and cost

in building £1300. Half of this sum was contributed by one generous member of the body, Richard Fishwick, esq., who also paid £200, to rescue the property belonging to the congregation from the hands into which it had fallen by the death of the former trustee. This property was purchased by the Baptists in 1725, and extends 68 yards on the east side of the Tuthill-stairs, and is 43 yards in breadth. On it was a very large and highly ornamented room, which, from some figures on the wainscoting, seems to have been built in the year 1585. This room must have been used as a place of worship previous to the revolution, when the corporation occasionally attended meeting-houses; for affixed to the old pews were two hands, for holding the mace and sword. Above this room was a dwelling-house, and a vestry adjoining to it. A portion of the exterior of this building is represented in the annexed engraving.—*Mackenzie.*



1798 (Feb. 22).—At a meeting of the common council in Newcastle, it was resolved “that five hundred pounds should be annually subscribed towards defraying the expenses of government during the war; and for the purpose of enabling the corporation to make this sacrifice of its revenue, the residence of the mayor in the Mansion-house, and all the occasional public entertainments heretofore given there, shall,

after Michaelmas next, be discontinued during the present calamitous state of the country."—*Local Papers*.

1798 (March 2).—Was launched from Southwick Quay, on the river Wear, the ship, Lord Duncan, the largest vessel ever built within the limits of the port of Sunderland; her extreme length being 143 feet 10 inches, her breadth 39 feet, and admeasuring 925 13-94ths. tons. Towards her completion, serious apprehensions were entertained for her safety in launching, from the narrowness and shallowness of the river. These difficulties, however, were overcome by deepening that part of its bed which her prow would first strike, and by laying afloat several stop-beams, fastened with ropes, so as to gradually impede her velocity, and ultimately bring her up. Thousands of spectators covered the borders of the river, many of whom on the south side were ingulphed to the middle, by the rising of the water on receiving this ponderous body. She sailed on the 13th of July, 1793, for London, where she remained unemployed till 1800, when she sailed for Smyrna and was there taken into government service till August 1802. In 1806 she was chartered for the West Indies, and was accidentally blown up at Port-au-Prince in 1807. By this unfortunate event, William Havelock, esq., the owner sustained a loss of upwards of £30,000.—*Ibid*.

This month, an elegant silver medal, at the expense of the town of Sunderland, was presented to John Crawford, a native of that place, who so heroically nailed Admiral Duncan's flag to the mast, in the action off Camperdown. On one side was engraved a view of two ships in action, with a scroll at the top, "*Duncan and Glory*;" on the reverse, a coat of arms, a quadrant on the shield, the motto, "*Orbis est Dei*," with this inscription underneath, "The town of Sunderland, to John Crawford, for gallant services the 11th of October, 1797."—*Ibid*.

April.—The aspect of affairs at this period was peculiarly alarming, especially in maritime districts, where the utmost exertions were deemed necessary to meet impending invasion; whilst our ports were infested with press-gangs, and our coasts covered with military camps—when to our regular army and county militias, were added auxiliaries of every description—with the French daily expected to land, and with the Irish in open insurrection—at this crisis was formed the loyal corps of Hexham volunteer infantry. Both the Durham and Northumberland fencibles were sent to Ireland, where they were soon engaged in actual hostilities.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS*.

April 2.—Died, at Gateshead, Mr. William Hilton, aged 72 years, whose poetical talents, integrity, and a manly resignation to accumulated misfortunes, won him the esteem of a numerous and respectable

acquaintance. His "*Poetical Works*," in 2 vols. 8vo., were published in Newcastle in 1775 and 1779.—*Local Papers*.

1798 (April 21).—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Joseph Booth, aged 82 years. He was formerly a traveller to a considerable manufactory in that town; and among other eccentricities of character, gave rise to the well-known story on which was founded the ludicrous farce, called "*Ducks and Green Peas*."—*Ibid*.

May 3.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, was convened by the mayor, for the purpose of forming an armed association for its defence. July 31st, the members who had enrolled themselves for this purpose, were drawn out on the town moor, and formed into eight companies under the command of sir Matthew White Ridley, bart. Their uniform was a blue jacket, white trowsers, and a round hat.—*Ibid*.

May 4.—The Morpeth volunteers were embodied, under the command of major John Bell,—the officers were John Wilson, William Wilson, Benjamin Woodman, and William Hawdon.—*Hodgson's Northd.*

May 13.—The service on the organ at Gateshead church was performed by a son of R. S. Hawks, esq., (afterwards sir Robert Shafto Hawks, knt.), of that place, who was only seven-years of age, and lost his sight in early infancy. His performance gave a most amazing proof of musical genius and early proficiency.—*Local Papers*.

May 17.—Being Ascension day, the right worshipful Anthony Hood, esq., mayor of Newcastle, and several of the aldermen, surveyed, according to ancient custom, the boundaries of their jurisdiction on the river Tyne. The procession, consisting of the barges of the corporation and river jury, accompanied by boats, &c., suitably decorated, set out on the morning, and on their arrival at Clifford's Fort, were received by the officers of the garrison with a file of men under arms, and salutes from the ships in the harbour and guns on shore. An experiment was tried with the keel fitted up by Mr. William Row, to act as a gun vessel under the direction of captain Tatham of the navy, and in conformity to a resolution of the keel-owners. This vessel completely answered the expectations formed of her, and while the procession remained at the fort, she was brought forward and fired several shots with great certainty as to the direction, from a long eighteen-pounder in her bow; after which the sails were set, and she was taken over the bar, and made several tacks, and afterwards wrought into the harbour in a manner that surprised all the nautical persons who saw it, and left no doubt that keels fitted up in the same manner, might be employed so as to prevent a privateer coming near this port. The keel was fitted with a bulwark all

round the gunwale, and had a flat deck ; she was wrought by seven oars on each side, and sailed under two lug sails with topsails. Two long boats fitted after captain Schank's plan, one with a carronade, the other with a long six-pounder were also exhibited.—*Local Papers*.

1798 (May 27).—Mr. Charlton Nesbit, a native of Swalwell, near Newcastle, and who had been a pupil of Mr. Thomas Bewick, received from the Society of Arts, London, a silver pallet, for engraving Mr. Robert Johnson's drawing of St. Nicholas church, in Newcastle, on twelve blocks united in one. May 25th, 1802, Mr. Nesbit received from the same society, a silver medal for engravings on wood. A scene in Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered." He also engraved on wood a portrait of Mr. Thomas Bewick for Mr. Charnley's edition of Bewick's 'Select Fables of Æsop and others.'—*Ibid*.

Same day, the thanks of the Society of Arts, and the silver medal were given to Mr. William Featherstonhaugh, of Lambton, near Chester-le-Street, for a description, a drawing and a model of a machine invented by him to counterbalance the ropes used in the shafts of mines.—*Ibid*.

June.—Military encampments were formed on the coasts of Durham and Northumberland. The camps broke up the beginning of October.—*Ibid*.

July 16.—Between two and three this afternoon, the town and neighbourhood of Newcastle was deluged with one of the most violent showers of rain ever remembered, which continued for above half an hour. About the middle of it, there was a single clap of thunder, accompanied by a single flash of lightning most astonishingly vivid, which killed six sheep belonging to Mr. Willens, of North Dissington, near Ponteland.—*Monthly Mag*.

August 7.—Died, at Sunderland, John Dobson, at the extraordinary age of 113 years.—*Local Papers*.

August 18.—Died, at Monkwearmouth, John Fish, aged 101 years.—*Ibid*.

September 7.—An alarming fire broke out on board the Joseph and Mary, of South Shields, then lying at anchor near the Mill-dam. The vessel was consumed dearly to the waters' edge.—*Ibid*.

October 5.—In consequence of the signal victory obtained by admiral Nelson, over the French fleet in the Mediterranean, an illumination took place in Newcastle, when many transparencies, with appropriate devices, were displayed.—*Ibid*.

October 15.—A fire broke out in a hay-stack at a farm called Wheat-hill, near Swinburn castle, Northumberland, which, together with eleven corn-stacks, was totally consumed.—*Ibid*.

October 25.—Died, the rev. Henry Latton, vicar of Woodhorn

and Felton, Northumberland. He was descended from an ancient ancestry, and his father had filled a diplomatic office at a foreign court. Mr. L. was not destitute of amiable qualities; but was unhappily attached to the pleasures of the turf, and finished his course at Newbiggin races. In 1828 his eldest daughter, then in indigent circumstances, published an affecting narrative, under the title of *Mara*.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

1798 (Nov. 26).—A dry dock for the repairing of ships, one of the most complete of the kind in the kingdom, was opened at South Shields, by Mr. Simon Temple, junior; on which occasion an ox was roasted whole, and plenty of ale distributed to the numerous workmen.—*Local Papers.*

November.—The Joseph and Hannah, a small collier, belonging to Sunderland, sailed from Portsmouth with five others; they had not been long at sea before a lugger privateer made its appearance, and attacked the Joseph, the other colliers made the best of their way. The privateer ordered the Joseph to strike, which he not complying with, they fired into him instantly; the collier returned the fire, with only two small swivels and one 4-pounder, and did some execution. Unfortunately they could not get the priming to lie on the touch-holes of the swivels, which soon rendered them useless. By some contrivance, they covered the 4-pounder with a sail, in order to keep it clear of the wind. While this was doing the privateer ran alongside; when one of the collier's men coming up with a red hot poker, in order to fire the gun, seeing one man in the act of boarding, immediately ran the poker into his mouth, and tumbled him into the sea, where he met his fate. By this time the collier had swung his bowsprit across the enemy, and his main chains catching hold of her, being clinker built, the sheathing gave way, and tore her in such a manner that in a few minutes she parted in two, and went with her crew to the bottom, before any assistance could be given. The captain of the collier, was at this time, laid on his back steering the ship, and only two men assisted on deck, as the others had been wounded in the action. The privateer mounted eight guns, and had 45 men on board. The collier only five men and boys.—*Ibid.*

December 16.—Died, at Hexham, old Francis Bell, parish clerk, which office he had held for about fifty years. It was Sunday, and he had ascended the belfry apparently in his usual health and was sitting with the other bell-ringers about ten o'clock, ready to commence the morning peal: but before they had begun to ring, old Frank had ceased to live.—*Jos. Ridley's MSS.*

This year, the Baptist Chapel, in Sans street, Sunderland, was built.—*Local Papers.*

1798.—State of the trade of the port of Newcastle in the year ending December 25 :

<i>Ships,</i>	<i>Coastwise,</i>	<i>Over sea,</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Inwards -	1091	- 248	- 1338
Outwards -	4738	- 570	- 5308

Exclusive of ships which had no lading.

Coals cleared outward :

<i>Coastwise.</i>	<i>Over sea.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
395,960	44,460	440,420

Chaldrons, of 53 hundred weight each.

The quantity coastwise was greatly short of the year preceding, and that over sea exceeded it.—*Monthly Mag.*

Bethel chapel, (Methodist new connexion) Manor-chare, now Salem chapel, Hood-street, Newcastle, founded. The registers of births and baptisms, 456 entries, extending from 1798 to 1837.—*Rep of Parl. Com.*

In consequence of the alarming circumstances of the times, an armed association took place at Stockton, consisting of three companies, Rowland Webster, esq., major-commandant. They were denominated the Loyal Stockton volunteers, and their services were confined to the protection of the town.—*Brewster.*

The old gate called Sandgate, (part of the town wall) which stood across the east end of the Quay, Newcastle, was this year removed by order of the magistrates, to widen the street, which, on account of the vast number of carriages passing and repassing, was inconvenient and dangerous to foot passengers.—*Local Papers.*

This year, a gentleman, a stranger to Berwick, instead of riding down the high street of Castle-gate, in his way to that town in a dark night, and there then being no lamps lighted in that quarter, rode down that part of this suburb called Wind-mill-hole. After having passed all the buildings to the right, the lights in the windows at Tweedmouth came in view, which he, unfortunately mistaking for those of Berwick, pushed his horse forward to the edge of the bank of the river Tweed, and still urging the animal on, both were precipitated to the bottom, a descent of upwards of 150 feet, two-thirds of which is a perpendicular; and, wonderful to relate, although the horses' brains were dashed out, yet the rider escaped unhurt, and climbed up another part of the ascent, carrying his saddle and bridle along with him.—*Fuller's Berwick.*

His grace the duke of Northumberland, having been informed of the great number of lives that had been saved by the use of the South Shields life-boat, when ships had been stranded at the entrance of the harbour, did, with sentiments of philanthropy and generosity that do honour to his name, this year, make a voluntary offer to the

shipowners, &c. of North Shields, of a boat of a similar construction to that at South Shields, to be kept at the north side, for the preservation of the life of seamen, in cases of shipwreck; and also to subscribe £20 annually towards defraying the expenses that would attend it.—*Local Papers.*

This year, an Armed Association was formed in the city of Durham. About 500 of the inhabitants enrolled themselves, from whom a very efficient corps of 300 men were selected, Ralph John Fenwick, esq. lieut.-colonel commandant. The colours were presented by lady Milbank, Oct. 10th, this year. A corps of cavalry was soon after raised under the command of Henry Methold, esq. Both corps remained embodied till May, 1802.—*Surtees.*



ANDERSON PLACE, NEWCASTLE (1826).

1799 (Jan. 3).—The Newcastle Armed Association were drawn up in the Nuns' field behind Anderson Place, in that town, for the purpose of receiving an elegant pair of colours, which were presented to them by lady Ridley, who, in an elegant speech, addressed the colonel, to which sir M. W. Ridley, bart., made a suitable reply, after which, he addressed the corps at considerable length, in a speech

fraught with loyalty. Lady Ridley also presented a standard to the troop of horse attached to the infantry, which was suitably acknowledged by captain Burdon (afterwards sir Thomas Burdon, knt.), after which he addressed the troop. The ground was kept by the Newcastle volunteers, and the ceremony was conducted with the greatest regularity, in the presence of an immense concourse of people assembled on the occasion. A commodious gallery was erected for the accommodation of the ladies, which extended the whole length of the Turk's Head long-room and the old theatre. After receiving the colours, the corps fired three excellent vollies; the Newcastle Volunteers then formed a line, in the front of which the Association marched from the field. The corps afterwards partook of an elegant entertainment provided at Brodie's, the Turk's Head inn, at which the general and the staff of the district, and many other officers and gentlemen of distinction were present. In the evening there was a splendid ball at the assembly rooms, under the patronage of Lady Ridley.—*Local Papers.*

1799 (Jan. 3).—Died, at Craike, in the county of Durham, at the advanced age of 104 years, Simeon Ellerton. He was a noted pedestrian, and was often employed by gentlemen in the neighbourhood on commissions to London, and other places, which he always executed on foot with fidelity and diligence. He lived in a neat stone cottage of his own building, and what was remarkable, he had literally carried it on his own head! it being his practice to bring home from every journey, the most proper stone he could pick up on the road, until he had accumulated a sufficient quantity to erect his habitation, by which time, although the motive had ceased, this practice had grown so much into a habit, that he imagined he could travel the better for having a weight upon his head, and he seldom came home without some loading. If any person enquired his reason, he used facetiously to answer "*Tis to keep on my hat.*"—*Local Rec.*

January 27.—Died, suddenly, the rev. George Busby, minister and master of the free grammar school at Hexham. As this extraordinary man was not much known beyond the province in which he lived, justice demands that an acknowledgement be made to his departed genius. His talents as a writer, had he not lived in a country clouded with local prejudices, would have placed him at the head of the composers of sermons. No preacher could be more a master of the passions: he could always command the tears of his congregation. His works had at once the piety and pleasing simplicity of Addison; the logic of Blair; and many of the fine sentimental touches of Sterne. His temper, which was warm, was ill-calculated for his office as master of the grammar school. As a teacher he expected

that clearness of comprehension in a boy which maturer years only could give. Such, indeed, was his austerity, that for several years the grammar school was without a single pupil: his admirers were, however, enthusiastic; but his enemies were inveterate and implacable; even to them his loss as a preacher was severely felt.—*Monthly Mag.*

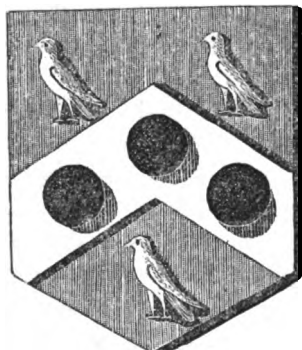
1799 (Feb. 9).—This was a most dreadful stormy day, so much so, that (being Saturday) no carts could get to Newcastle market.—*Local Papers.*

March 10.—A fire broke out in the work-shop of Mr. Laing, ship-builder, at Monkwearmouth-shore. It raged with such violence, that all the stores therein, consisting of pitch, tar, oakum, &c., with the workmen's tools, were totally destroyed, before it could be got under. Unfortunately Mr. Laing's office was in the premises, and all his books, papers, &c. were consumed.—*Local Rec.*

March 15.—A handsome brig of 375 tons burthen, was launched from the building-yard of Mr. Bruce at Tweedmouth, and was the largest ever built at that place.—*Local Papers.*

March 26.—Died, at the Leazes, near Newcastle, of a pulmonary complaint, aged 46 years, Mr. John Howard, author of "A Treatise on Spherical Geometry, 1798," and several other ingenious mathematical and poetical performances. He was interred in St. John's church-yard, in Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

April 1.—Some wag drew a great concourse of people to the Forth, in Newcastle, by posting up handbills about the town and neighbourhood, stating, that there was to be a boxing match. Pitmen, Keelmen, and others, poured in from a considerable distance, to the great entertainment of the publicans in the town, who knew from experience, that a disappointment of this kind makes a man thirsty.—*Ibid.*



April 18.—Matthew White Ridley, esq. (grandfather to the present baronet), attained his 21st year, on which occasion, the bells in the different churches in Newcastle were rung at intervals during the day, and the utmost festivity reigned at the hospitable mansion at Blagdon. The day was also celebrated with unusual glee at Blyth, where a grand dinner was given to the principal inhabitants, and in the evening there was a general illumination. It may not perhaps be unworthy of remark, that to distinguish more particularly this joyous event, a large flag was hoisted on the highest vane of the church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle.—*Ibid.*

1799 (May 29).—A fire broke out in a farm-house inhabited by Mark Jobson, hind to Mr. Robert Jobson, of Elswick, near Newcastle, which in a short time consumed the same, and also a cow confined in one of the out-houses. Mrs. Jobson was severely burnt in endeavouring to extricate the poor animal from the flames.—*Local Papers*.

This month, died, in Newcastle, John Jackson, a free-meter, an eccentric character, well known by the name of "*Beau Jackson*." He applied to the parish officers of St. Nicholas' for relief which was granted to him. After his death, cash to the amount of £100. was found in his apartment.—*Ibid*.

July.—At Stockton, as some hay makers were at work in a field, they were suddenly alarmed by a prodigious whirlwind, which carried many hundred weight of hay to an immense perpendicular height.—*Ibid*.

July 22.—Mary Nicholson, was executed at Durham, for poisoning her mistress. The rope broke at the moment of her suspension, and it was near an hour before another could be procured.—*Ibid*.

July 25.—Died, in the 31st year of his age, John Tweddell, M.A. The rev. Robt. Tweddell, of Threapwood, has hallowed the memory of his distinguished brother, John Tweddell, by the publication of a work, in quarto, in 1815, entitled—"Remains of the late John Tweddell, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, being a selection of his letters, &c., together with a re-publication of his *Prolusiones Juveniles*;" with a memoir of the author prefixed, by which affectionate memorial it appears that Threapwood has the honour of being the birth-place of that "accomplished scholar and gentleman," and indefatigable traveller. At nine years old he entered the school of the rev. Matt. Raine, of Hartforth, near Richmond; afterwards was a short time with Dr. Parr; and then of Trinity College, Cambridge, where, in 1788, he gained all the three medals of sir William Browne; and in the next year two of them. In 1790, he obtained the Chancellor's medal; in 1791 and 1792, the member's prize for middle and senior bachelors; and, in the latter year, entered of the Middle Temple. In 1793, his "*Prolusiones Juveniles*" were published; and, in 1795, he went to Hamburgh, and thence to Berlin and Vienna. He rambled through the whole of Switzerland; visited the Dnieper, in the Ukraine; and, at Moscow, was introduced to Stanislaus, the last king of Poland. From St. Petersburg he went into Sweden, and back thence through the Crimea to Constantinople; and, after long and exhausting travels in Greece, died at Athens, July 25, 1799, of fever and spasms, induced by excessive fatigue. Lord Byron, and Mr. Fiot, of St. John's, with some difficulty, got a slab of white marble, with a simple Greek inscription by the rev Robert Walpole, placed over his grave; but this, we have been told, since the The-

seum has been converted into a museum, has been broken and cast into the Temple of the Winds. We did not hear that his bones were disturbed.

Profano

Clarus funere, barbaris que sanctis
 Thesei, quicquid id est domo recumbis,
 Felix! si tibi forsitan inter umbras
 Præsentiscere fas sit, ossa tecum
 Illo marmore quanta conquiescunt,
 Tuæ te quoque quod tegant Athenæ.

A. MOORE, 1799.

Mr. Tweddell's letters breathe forth the very spirit of the poetical temperament—keen, quick perception and lively imagination,

Scattering from her painted urn

Thoughts that breathe and words that burn,

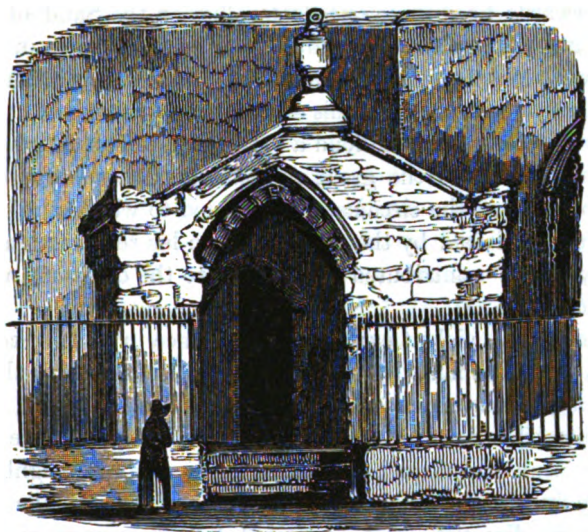
sobered by the cast of melancholy, and almost morbid sensibility, which often throws its dark shadow over the bright, brief course of human excellence.—*Hodgson. Surtees.*

1799 (Aug. 6).—The Count D'Artois, and his suite, passed through Newcastle, on their way from Edinburgh to London.—*Local Papers.*

August 8.—Died at his residence at the Bath house, Newcastle, major-general lord viscount Fielding, colonel of the 22nd regiment of light dragoons, and second in command of the military force in that district. August 15th the corpse was removed for interment in the family vault in Warwickshire, attended with grand military honours.—*Ibid.*

August 28.—About six o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in a warehouse at the Head of the Side, belonging to Mr. Bulman, saddler and ironmonger, which for a short time raged with great fury; but the fire bell having been rung and the drum beat to arms, the water engines, a number of active men, and a sufficient range of military to keep off the crowd and prevent pilfering, were very quickly assembled; and the flames, though at first tremendous in appearance, and threatening destruction to the whole building, were overcome in less than an hour. The origin of the conflagration could not be accounted for, as no person lived on the premises; and though a fire had been lighted in one of the rooms a few hours the preceding day, was extinguished about six o'clock in the evening. A considerable part of the extensive stock was consumed, but the greater part was saved by the exertions of those who were ready and anxious to render every assistance in their power, yet in the hurry of removal, great loss and injury were sustained. During the conflagration, the proprietor informed the assistants that there was a quantity of gun-

powder in one of the upper warehouses, and two intrepid fellows mounted a ladder, and, through a window, entered the apartment where it was placed, within a few inches of burning matter, and safely lodged the barrels in St. Nicholas' church; a most fortunate circumstance, as a few minutes' delay might perhaps have endangered the lives of an immense multitude. Mr. Bulman's shop and warehouse were part of a range of buildings which stood in the middle of the street a little in advance of the south door of St. Nicholas' church; they are now entirely removed. It was in these premises that Mr. Partis' dreadful fire occurred.—*Local Papers.*



SOUTH PORCH OF ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH (1819).

1799 (Sep. 1).—A woman was interred at St. Oswald's church, Durham, aged 102 years. She retained her faculties in a surprising degree.—*Ibid.*

September 5.—On the news arriving in Newcastle, of the Dutch fleet in the Texel having been surrendered to admiral Mitchell, the bells were rung, the volunteers marched to the Sandhill, where they fired three vollies to celebrate the achievement, and the armed association went through the same ceremony with great dexterity at the Forth. The Darlington volunteers met in the Market Place of that town, and fired three fine vollies, and the town at night was brilliantly illuminated.—*Ibid.*

October 3.—A woman was brought to the lunatic asylum, near Newcastle, who had lived upwards of three years among the rocks, on the sea-shore, near Seaham. From whence, or in what manner she first

came there, was unknown ; but she spoke the Scottish dialect, and talked of Loch Stewart and Aber-Gordon, in a rambling manner. She was about 35 years of age, inoffensive and cheerful, and during her residence among the rocks was fantastically dressed in rags which chance or shipwreck threw in her way ; she always kept a good fire of weed or coal which the sea threw up, and it was supposed lived on shell-fish. What was remarkable, a beard had grown on the lower part of her chin nearly an inch long, and bushy like the whiskers of a man.—*Local Papers.*

1799 (Oct. 10).—The Newcastle armed association were drawn out on the Town-moor, to be reviewed by lieutenant-general Musgrave. The corps afterwards fired three excellent volleys on the Sandhill, to celebrate the important victory of the surrender of Alkmaar, in Holland ; the bells were also rung on the occasion. Immediately after the first fire, a countryman standing in his cart, unused probably to "*the din of arms*," and not expecting so loud a salutation, fell as flat as if he had been actually shot, to the great amusement of those members of the corps who observed the circumstance ; added to which, the ghost-like countenance exhibited by the poor fellow on his resurrection from his "*dream of death*" contributed not a little to the extravagance of the scene.—*Ibid.*

October 11.—A violent explosion took place in Lumley-colliery, in the county of Durham, by which dreadful catastrophe thirty-nine human beings were launched into eternity.—*Ibid.*

November 12.—Several meteors, or balls of fire, were seen at Greatham, near Hartlepool, and other parts of that neighbourhood. They were first observed between five and six o'clock on the morning, in an eastern direction, and continued falling in succession and together till day-break. The atmosphere was very clear, and the moon which was full, shone with uncommon brilliancy. The meteors which at first appeared like what are vulgarly called shooting stars, soon became stationary ; they then, as it were, burst, but without any perceptible report, and passed to the northward, leaving behind them beautiful trains of floating fire in various shapes, some pointed, some radiated, some in sparks, and others in large columns. The fire-balls continued falling about two hours, and were succeeded till near eight o'clock by slight flashes of lightning. The general appearance was sublimely awful, particularly to the Hartlepool fishermen then at sea. To some spectators the sky appeared to open, and to display a number of luminous serpents moving in a particular direction ; these were soon after broken into separate balls, and fell towards the earth in a shower of fire.—*Brewster's Stockton.*

November 14.—General sir Ralph Abercrombie, and his suite,

landed at Shields from the Helder, which they left on the 11th. A Russian general landed at the same time.—*Local Papers.*

1799 (Nov.)—This month, seven transports put into Shields through stress of weather, having on board upwards of 1,600 Russians and Cossacks, bound for Guernsey. Several of the officers were in Newcastle on the 21st, and excited much curiosity as they walked through the streets. They danced at the Assembly in the evening, and amused the company with some of their own country songs after tea. Their uniform was green, with enormous cocked hats almost covered with gold lace.—*Ibid.*

December 14.—Early on the morning, a fellow contrived to break through a window into the kitchen at Woolsington, near Newcastle, the seat of Matthew Bell, esq., where a young chimney-sweeper, who had not finished his work the day before, was lying under a table; after having warmed himself at the fire, the fellow proceeded up stairs, when the young *gentleman of the black robe* ventured out of his covert, and, by ringing a bell, alarmed the family, but the fellow made his escape; the boy, however, gave so accurate a description of his person and dress, that he was taken soon after in company with two women (one of whom pretended to be a fortune teller), and taken before the magistrates in Newcastle, where the boy was called upon to identify him among a number of other men, which he readily did, and he was consequently committed to prison. At the assizes for Northumberland the following year, John M'Kenan, for breaking into the house of Matthew Bell, esq., of Woolsington was found guilty and condemned, but afterwards reprieved.—*Ibid.*

This year, the society of arts presented the gold medal to Mr. Matthew Forster, of Broomy-holme, near Chester-le-street, for observations on the comparative culture of turnips.—*Ibid.*

Died, this year, at Burnhead, near Elsdon, in Northumberland, aged about 41, Mrs. Isabel Scott, who had been tapped twenty-two times within the space of two years and a half, and each time, at a medium, had thirty-two quarts of water taken from her, making, in all, about seven-hundred and four quarts, or one-hundred and seventy-six gallons, nearly equal to three hogsheads and a half.—*Monthly Mag.*

The Independent chapel, Green Dragon yard, and West row, Stockton-on-Tees, founded. The register of births and baptisms, 67 entries extends from 1799 to 1816, and from 1821 to 1836.—*Rep. of Parl. Com.*

Stephenson street chapel (Baptist) North Shields founded. The register of births, 145 entries, extends from 1799 to 1837.—*Ibid.*

The loss of a very valuable vessel off the mouth of Sunderland harbour, gave rise to a subscription for the building of a life-boat: and a

second has since been added. The Sunderland life-boats differs entirely from any others on their principle; for when filled with water, and with any number of men the boats can contain, they are still sufficiently bouyant to preclude all danger. The inside of the boat consists of compartments all of which are air tight, so that if the boat should be staved by striking on a rock or any other hard substance, it can admit no more water than the size of the division, which will occasion little or no injury. A boat has from 50 to 60 compartments according to size; all the water the boat contains is confined to the centre, as also the rowers, which keep the boat upright and less liable to upset; there are four apertures that go through the bottom to disperse the water when the sea breaks in, and when full of water the whole will be discharged again in less than a minute; the seats or thwarts in the centre are for the rowers, and the seats at each end are for shipwrecked men. A rope and brass wire goes round the gunwale to prevent the people being washed out, and a rope on each side of the seats for the same purpose to the rowers. The boat has an iron keel, which adds to its strength as well as ballast. The only cork used is on the outside, which answers for a finder, and adds a little to the buoyancy. The first boat was built by Mr. Wake of Monkwearmouth nearly on Mr. Greathead's principle, but was afterwards altered according to the plan of John Davison of Bishopwearmouth, esq.—*Surtees*.

END OF VOLUME TWO.



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